

THE KEYNOTE

North American Version

FISTS CW Club



Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682

Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720

Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z

Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

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Hello FISTS! Whew! I can't believe how big this issue is. There are so many backlogged articles and comments since we had to take up room in the last two issues with the ARRL proposal and the FCC proposal. I fit most of them in this issue, and it made quite a dent in the pile on my desk, but there are still many more to go. Because of the size of this issue, and the timing (it will be October before you read this) I'm calling this a combo September/October issue. I hope you enjoy all the reading in this copy.

I hope, I hope, I hope, that you get this issue before the Fall Sprint, October 10th. Tom AC5JH sent the notices to the major magazines, but NOT ONE of the printed the information in the Contest Columns. That was a major blow because publicity is crucial for an successful contest. Hopefully, you read the notice in our Issue 8 Keynote and marked your calendars so you don't miss it.

Also included in this is the text from the New Zealand FISTS chapter "FISTS Down Under". To save on mailing costs, Geo is sending a copy of the DX Keynote over there and they are adding their two cents worth and distributing it to the New Zealand members. I thought you might find it of interest, so I will include their news in our Keynote.

T-SHIRTS!! We're getting T-shirts. Thank You to Ken KB2ART for supplying the graphic and springing for the screening charges! The shirts are light blue and have "Use CW IT'S THE REAL THING" with the FISTS key logo in between the Use CW and the IT'S THE REAL THING. I'm sure they will

look very sharp and you will be the envy of all your friends at the next hamfest if you're wearing one! We just ordered them today, so they won't be available until the middle of October. I don't know what the price will be yet, but they will be available as near to our cost as possible from Supply Manager WO8E.

MUGS!! We will again have mugs. I took advantage of having Ken's camera ready graphic from the T-shirt and ordered a batch of mugs with the same design on them as the T-shirts. The 11 oz mugs are white ceramic with the graphic in bright blue and red. Very patriotic looking! I don't have the total price of these either as we go to press, but they will also be available from WO8E.

Please DO NOT order these yet!! The minute we have them in stock, I'll send out a mass Emailing to let you know. Those with Email capability, please help spread the word to your FISTS friends who don't. If you aren't on the Email list - or have changed your Email address - contact Brian W8BL at blafont@tir.com with your callsign and FISTS number so he can add you to the mailing list. We don't share the mailing list with anyone and I only send out mass Emailings when something important comes up, so you won't be inundated with unwanted mailings.

Thank You to all who have included extra money with your renewals. For example, Nick N0NY was late with his subs, so he "fined" himself a \$5 late fee, hi. It truly is appreciated and helps out people who can't afford FISTS subs due to serious limited income problems. Now, on with your Keynote!...73/88 Nancy

HOW DO I...

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FISTS CW CLUB.

...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 14 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. ***What's the Family Plan?*** All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD? Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE? Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

Welcome to the New FISTS

This list takes up where we left off in Issue 6

	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>					
5100	WC4CW	LowKeyClub	SC	KS4DU	5150	KB0UYU	Ed	MN	W6DDB
5101	KF0QS	BERNIE	CO	WEBPAGE	5151	KF4YOG	Eli	FL	KS7J
5102	WB4EDV	CHARLIE	FL	KA1KAX	5152	NA3RB	Rich	PA	KG8WF
5103	KG9JR	RAY	IN	WEBPAGE	5153	AG4T	Emil	AL	WB2NSN
5104	W1PL	LESLIE	MA		5154	WA6GKK	Larry	CA	K6YR
5105	N4HS	DAVID	AL	K5HLR	5155	KB5TIQ	Ron	LA	AC5JH
5106	KC0CRA	TONY	IA	W6DDB	5156	WB8RRY	Stu	KY	K4PTU
5107	N0KYB	Steve	CA	NC0A	5157	N2GFF	ANDREW	CA	W6DDB
5108	WO7A	NED	OR	W1LIC	5158	N0NJK	JIM	MO	
5109	W0CGR	GARY	CO	K3USA	5159	W6ZRJ	DOC	CA	K6YR
5110	NP3K	CHARLIE	FL	Webpage	5160	KG5FH	JIM	TX	
5111	W1FD	FRANK	CT	W6DDB	5161	KJ6CA	BOB	CA	KK7NB
5112	WA2MPV	BUDDY	NJ	Webpage	5162	KC5MGR	HENRY	LA	K5HLR
5113	KF4OFD	SKIP	TN		5163	KF4WQD	CHUCK	SC	G3ZQS
5114	W3UYC	GEORGE	MD	Hamvention	5164	KM5IM	JOHNNY	OK	AC5JH
5115	K7MOS	CHUCK	MT	KC5Y	5165	KC5ZOT	SHAWN	VA	KC8BSC
5116	KA0W	KEN	IA	WA0FGV	5166	KB8ANY	PAUL	OH	W8VEL
5117	K3ML	MEL	FL	K4UK	5167	KF4AHF	Christian	FL	NP3K
5118	KG7DK	RICH	OR	N16P	5168	K10ET	FRED	MO	
5119	KC8JGA	DAVE	OH	KB9GRN	5169	W5JLP	JOHANNA	TX	N5UC
5120	W9PPK	KEN	IL	N0BOR	5170	K4SEE	FOREST	FL	WB2FXK
5121	WD8MHT	RAUL	NC	KF6GUH	5171	KB1CTC	MIKE	CT	WEBPAGE
5122	W6AEA	GEORGE	WA	K5HLR	5172	KA3FRY	GEORGE	PA	NS3O
5123	K0WNR	ROY	IA	Hamvention	5173	K1KU	DARREL	VT	WZ8C
5124	KB9IMI	KEN	IL	WB0B	5174	KF4VWW	FLORENCE	VA	KU4EA
5125	KC9YI	SCOTT	WI	KA0ZGO	5175	KE6LBX	DAN	CA	WEBPAGE
5126	CE2LZR	JULIO		A19L	5176	N4QA	BILL	VA	KE4HZM
5127	WA7LNV	JACK	UT	W8EQA	5177	KC5NGX	JOHN	TX	KK4KF
5128	AA5HM	GEORGE	AR	WB0YPO	5178	WD9HUA	JIM	IN	WB8FSV
5129	VE6BKW	JIM	AB	GX0IPX	5179	KQ6RM	LINDA	CA	KE6CTI
5130	AB0CW	MARK	CO	Webpage	5180	WB4EQZ	KEN	TN	WEBPAGE
5131	W6DUG	DUG	CA	Webpage	5181	KC8IYF	JEFFREY	MI	WB2FXK
5132	AB0ES	SCOTT	M N	Webpage	5182	K8NQQ	Roy	NC	
5133	KB7AJY	JEANMARIE	OR	N7EIF	5183	NS2S	RALPH WIER	NY	KN2GSJ
5134	N0SU	DONALD	NC	K5HLR	5184	KK3P	ROBERT	MA	A19L
5135	K2ZFD	JOE	NJ	W4JTU	5185	K14FD	TOM	FL	WSCHWSTZ
5136	KQ6ON	DAN	CA	K7IB	5186	K7JH	JAMES	OR	WA7MMG
5137	AC4EC	Ike	VA		5187	K1WZ	WALT	NH	N1PP
5138	KF4URP	NANCY	KY	AF4JE	5188	K7OC	ED	OR	K7FD
5139	KB8BUT	Wolfie	MI	KX8LL	5189	AA3QT	KEVIN	PA	AE4IX
5140	N0BM	BRIAN	MN	W0UFO	5190	KB9RPG	STEVE	IN	N9TA
5141	KB3CCD	JIM	PA	AF4JE	5191	KE7XX	TOM	WA	W7OVG
5142	KB0TWL	Doc	TX	KPRNS/KF4ONA	5192	W3HRK	ALEC	PA	
5143	KC5VTP	BRAD	MS	W6DDB	5193	KF6JWL	FRITZ	CA	KD6ZBN
5144	W5TVW	SANDY	LA	K5HLR	5194	W1DOK	WOODY	NH	WEBPAGE
5145	N8YLD	KATHY	MI	AA8VM	5195	WA7URV	PHIL	OR	KQ6ES
5146	W6JU	MORT	CA	K6YR	5196	WB0UFB	JOHN	MO	NAGDWB2FXK
5147	KE4IAF	DAVE	NC	N4ZMP	5197	AL0H	DAVE	AK	WEBPAGE
5148	NN6A	TIM	CA	K7UF	5198	K3NUP	ROBERT	PA	G0IFX
5149	N0BZM	Ray	MO	N1NM	5199	WA1SYH	BEN	MA	ACSJH/VE1ZAC
					5200	KC4CW	Coastal GA Club	GA	
					5201	KD5CKP	TIM	MS	
					5202	WB4AWM	JOE	AL	WL7SF
					5203	KO4DR	ART	FL	KT4XE
					5204	W8JCS	JOE	MI	WZ8C

#	Callsign	Name	State	Sponsor					
5205	VE7BPN	JOE	BC	VE7CRO	5259	N2RF	RICK	NJ	W4GEO
5206	KD5CMQ	RICH	MS	AB5YY	5260	AC6PI	DAN	CA	WEBPAGE
5207	AB7UW	VAUGHN	MT	N8VZU	5261	KG8IX	WILLIAM	OH	KA8OQF
5208	KR7RK	KEITH	AZ	HAMVENTION	5262	WA6MBZ	MICHAEL	CA	K6YR/W6ZRJ
5209	KF6NTM	RON	CA	VE5HQ	5263	KE3JH	JIM	PA	W2NTS
5210	N8QDK	PHIL	MI	WEBPAGE	5264	KF4RRM	CHRIS	FL	VE5HQ
5211	N1XBF	CONAL	NH	K5HLR	5265	K7TH	JIM	WA	KB7SVA
5212	W7PLA	C. E.	WA	W7BYG	5266	K3DXJ	HENRY	PA	VA3BBW
5213	KC5BDA	ANN	AR	AA5HM	5267	WB2WCO	JEFF	NJ	NU3E
5214	KB5LBN	LOUISA	TX	W5JLP	5268	K0EDG	DUANE	TN	NP4FW
5215	KF4PRV	ROGER	SC	AA8RJ	5269	WA6MVV	TERRY	WA	K5HLR
5216	WA1HWS	HARRY	ME		5270	NW4G	DICK	OH	KI0HQ
5217	N4VSD	KEN	TN		5271	KE4DDI	RICK	SC	
5218	KC0CGR	BOB	SD	KC2AFK	5272	VE7KEY	FRANK	BC	KC0AGH
5219	VE3ZJB	JIM	ONT	WD0HBW	5273	PY2DBU	CARL		
5220	K4AT	JOHN	KY	WEBPAGE	5274	AE6Z	SHORTY	CA	
5221	N4CVF	KURT	GA	NC5S	5275	KF4YJQ	WALTER	TX	W9ISC
5222	VE3BEX	HARRY	ONT	N1NM	5276	N0FKA	KATHI	MN	Webpage
5223	WD0GXI	WAYNE	MO	N2ZHF	5277	K4YDK	MIKE	SC	Webpage
5224	K9FT	MIKE	IN	WZ8C	5278	WB5GWB	JEFF	NY	AA3JV
5225	KB9OFC	ANDY	IN	K9FT	5279	NP3PW	CARL	PR	NP4FW
5226	W5AH	BOB	TX	K5RA	5280	AA4NG	FRED	VA	
5227	WB6FBB	STEWART	CA	KD6VMY	5281	W1YRW	FRED	ME	Webpage
5228	KF6QVP	PAUL	CA	KD7BAB	5282	AF4CM	JEFF	VA	Webpage
5229	KD5BLD	KATHY	LA	KK5WG	5283	N0TM	PAUL	NE	
5230	KB2VCS	DAVID	NJ	WN2DX	5284	W0LHU	JOHN	MO	WJ0C
5231	KN6OM	ERIC	CA	AD6EF	5285	KB9PJS	ANDREW	IL	K5HLR
5232	K3XZ	ED	MD	W3RMD	5286	NS7E	ART	NH	K4PTU
5233	N5ISQ	CLYDE	MS	AC5PE	5287	KF4CLO	FRANK	AL	KA1RVV
5234	KA1EFO	RONALD	MA	K5HLR	5288	KD6SX	GEORGE	CA	KC5SAM
5235	WA7HEE	JOHN	WA	N6RNP	5289	WD5CJI	CHAS	TX	Webpage
5236	K6IN	KENT	CA	WEBPAGE	5290	KB9RNM	GENE	IL	Webpage
5237	K8RAH	BOB	OH	N8TW	5291	KB2ZPE	RAY	NJ	KA1OX
5238	K3IVB	CURT	PA	WEBPAGE	5292	KG9AI	RONNY	IN	W6DDB
5239	VE3MPQ	GARY	ONT	WB2FXK	5293	N1MS	MIKE	NH	W4HZD
5240	KD1LG	ED	ME	AA1KF	5294	KX3X	GREGORY	PA	KK5WG
5241	AF4HK	TOMMY	SC	N1FN	5295	K8DD	HANK	MI	WZ8C
5242	K8CW	ALAN	OH	AF9H	5296	N5KY	JIM	NM	WB5QYT
5243	N9WHH	CHRIS	IL	KC9GL	5297	K8PG	PAUL	MI	NJ8R
5244	K9CW	DREW	IL	WEBPAGE	5298	KD5DQE	JOE	TX	W6DDB
5245	AC5OD	RICHARD	AR	AC5OC	5299	AA9SK	JOHN	IL	N9ZUT
5246	K5RLW	BOB	WA	WA7MMG	5300	W5YA	HIGHDESERTCLUB	NM	
5247	N1WD	BILL	CA		5301	KB9OGO	KEN	IL	KB9GRN
5248	KB7BCN	JIM	WA	WA7MMG	5302	N8TE	TOM	WV	Webpage
5249	N5AYP	CHARLIE	TX	KC5SAM	5303	W9YYG	NORMAN	IL	AF9H/A19L
5250	KC2AFO	STEVE	NJC	N2YKH	5304	KB8YUC	MIKE	OH	VE3JIF
5251	W2TS	MITT	NJ	NS3O	5305	KD5EDB	RANDY	NM	Webpage
5252	KC7ZMN	GUY	WA	KA7MGM	5306	AE4GX	SAM	GA	N3AO
5253	K4MQM	BARNEY	AL	VA3JPM	5307	KN4OK	DAVID	AL	KD4RHH
5254	K8TFC	JOHN	WI	WEBPAGE	5308	N4IHH	DAVE	FL	KA2KDJ
5255	KC8KBD	RAY	OH	KB8OOM	5309	N3ZIL	JON	PA	
5256	K2ABX	PAUL	NY	WB2FXK	5310	KD5BAT	DOUGLAS	TX	W7VVW, KM5GM
5257	N2BR	BOB	TN	WA4KQL	5311	NC9T	DAN	IL	A19L, AF9H
5258	N0UEP	KEN	DC	W9EM	5312	WD0FLJ	FRANK	MO	AA9LS
					5313	VE7YMM	MARK	BC	VE4GEC

5314	WB5ITB	KEN	CA	K6OIO	5369	WB7YAF	LEE	NY	
5315	K9QI	GREG	IL	K9UQN	5370	K3RGW	DENNY	PA	KB3AWR
5316	WB2CWA	BOB	VT	Webpage	5371	KM5QU	NAT	AR	
5317	KU1Q	WALT	CT	WD8OCV	5372	VE7NK	ORAN	BC	K7FD
5318	VE2DCI	MAC	QC	K3AS	5373	VE3EIM	ROBERT	ONT	W9SUL
5319	N7NOZ	PAUL	WA	KC7MZT, WA7MMG	5374	KK7OH	JOHN	WA	WA7MMG
5320	KI6OY	LEE	CA		5375	KC2DJZ	JOHN	NJ	Webpage
5321	KN6Q	RAY	CA	AC6TO	5376	WB4PNE	TOM	NC	Webpage
5322	WR4Z	JIM	FL	K4VRT	5377	WX7G	DAVE	ID	KB7ZO
5323	K0PY	MIKE	KS	KA8YRV	5378	KI8DU	ROGER	WV	AE4NW
5324	KF6LOP	FRANK	CA	W6DDB	5379	W7SS	TOM	WA	K7WF
5325	VE7ERE	FONZIE	BC	VE7BPN	5380	KU4QW	JIM	TN	
5326	AA3RC	WALTER	PA	KC5SPZ	5381	KF4IZE	WILL	NC	WA6SBB
5327	WA8GHZ	JACK	TX		5382	N1MDS	GLEN	ME	WA7ROI
5328	AB4TT	CHARLIE	NC	AE4NW	5383	AA3CE	TOM	PA	AA3LX
5329	WA4GNP	Sparks	KY	Webpage	5384	K5JH	JIMMY	AR	KE4HZM
5330	W9BYN	JOHN	IN	N6WU	5385	K7TG	TOM	WA	Webpage
5331	W8HAP	ROB	ME	N1NGM	5386	AC5QO	WOODROW	AR	W4 PBL
5332	CX7CC	JUAN CARLOS		W4RPH	5387	K0RLM	WALT	IA	W6DDB
5333	N0EUM	MABEL	IA	WB0T	5388	KA3CYN	KATIE	IA	K0RLM
5334	WB7PCK	VIRGINIA	AZ	W7BWI	5389	KD6KVE	ERNIE	CA	KA7MGM
5335	W2APF	THAIRE	MA		5390	KF6PCU	SEAN	CA	K8RAJ
5336	AF4EV	WILLIAM	AL	K5HLR	5391	AC4FI	DAVID	GA	
5337	WD8LXX	ROB	OH	K8EHE	5392	N3NHX	ALBERT	PA	N6ZKT/N2WCR
5338	VE2KRM	GERY	NY	KB1CTY	5393	KF6JSP	BOB	CA	KF5AUO
5339	WA1ROI	FRED	ME		5394	AA9TQ	MIKE	WI	W9EM
5340	W6ZZT	BILL	CA	KB6QIB	5395	KB2JMJ	JIM	NJ	Webpage
5341	WD0GKC	DALE	MO	WD0GXI	5396	K7FJ	DON	WA	WA7MMG
5342	KT5X	FRED	NM		5397	KB0CIG	BRIAN	IA	KB9QHU
5343	KK4BE	RAY	TN	KA8OQF	5398	VE7EID	GEORGE	BC	AF4JE
5344	N3YRM	JAY	PA	W8IMP	5399	KK7LC	SCOTT	UT	
5345	N5SAN	FRANK	AR	W8LQ	5400	KC8JOW	GARY	OH	WB4HUL
5346	WB3EBN	BOB	NJ		5401	KQ6HW	MARK	CA	
5347	AA3RL	MIKE	MD	G6QA	5402	KB3CGC	HOPE	MD	K3DXJ
5348	W5KP	JERRY	OK	W6DDB	5403	K5KW	DON	OK	WB2HIK
5349	W1GRY	GARY	NH	Webpage	5404	W3VL	RUSS	MD	W4PBL
5350	W1CX	LOYD	VT	W1LIC	5405	W2CS	GARY	NC	Webpage
5351	N8FL	ALAN	WV	KF4RBK	5406	W2JE	ROB	NY	N2ZHF
5352	KF6PGW	JOHN	CA	KC7QOP	5407	W4JFR	JIM	NC	WD0HBW
5353	N8ME	MARK	OH	KB9GRN	5408	KC5VMI	LUKE	MS	N4GD
5354	N1MDX	HARRIS	MA	N2XTA	5409	VE6JWA	JIM	AB	VE6GSM
5355	KD7BOD	MICHAEL	UT	N9BOR	5410	W9CEY	HOWARD	IN	N7XV
5356	KC2BTL	CLAYTON	NY		5411	AB6TJ	RICHARD	CA	W4PBL
5357	KF6FCV/717ACM	JIM	AP	Webpage	5412	WA9NLA	LLOYD	FL	Webpage
5358	W6ABC	JACK	CA	K7WF	5413	K0OAL	TONY	NE	6
5359	K0JUR	GUS	CO	Webpage	5414	N8MP	MIKE	MI	N8WR
5360	WA0OUR	NORM	SD	Webpage	5415	AD5M	MORRIS	AR	AB8AV
5361	WA3WNK	JOHN	PA	W1WEA	5416	N6JUG	JIM	CA	K9EL3/WA6CLW/
5362	KE4VDM	JIM	FL	KC4GPJ	5417	KU4SF	JOHN	GA	N8JIW
5363	WB3CNJ	CYNTHIA	PA	KA4IFF	5418	KE1AZ	JIM	VT	AA1SU
5364	K7YDL	GREG	OR		5419	WA3WAW	BERT	PA	Webpage
5365	W5TB	DOC	TX	KK5NA	5420	K8KXK	DENNIS	NC	N6MNZ
5366	W3EVG	PAUL	MD	W3KD	5421	KB1CKS	BILL	ME	AA1KC
5367	KD7BIY	DOUG	OR	Webpage	5422	KF4VUG	SARA	KY	KB9GRN
5368	W7EAI	PAUL	WA	Webpage	5423	W4ZJY	DAVE	AL	Webpage
					5424	N3XPK	ROBIN	MD	N3ZGZ
					5425	KC5IZN	MARK	OK	ISSUE 9 1998
					5426	N4EUK	STEVE	VA	Webpage
					5427	KE6HEZ	BILL		

Call Changes

Tom, 3274, was WN7ECL is now W7ARR
Craig, 3091, was WB8TLC is now W8CR
Keith, 2405, was KR4VY is now W4HKQ
Roger, 2418, was KT4YY is now AG4RM
Bill, 4959, was KU4QR is now WA4CX
Eric, 4779, was AC5QU is now N5XQ
Dick, 4116, was W5IRL is now K5PU
Ralph, 5066 was AA3RI is now N3VJI
Rob, 3193, was KC7OIA is now WA7ROB
Lee, 4115, was KB0DHF is now AA9WK
Steven, 4999, was KC2BFD is now N2WJ
Chuck, 5090, was KF6NWN is now AD6GI
Ted, 4796, was VE6TIB is now VE6KIB
Elmar, 2112, was KB2VTN is now K2EL
Bud, 3309, was KI5XC is now N1LH
Gerry, 5025, was KB0OLO is now K9GRA
Coastal Georgia FISTS Club, 5200, is now NC4CW
Mike, 4139, was KE4HLU is now AF4LQ
Andreas, 4961, was KF6NEB is now AD6FQ
Jim, 3955, was KF6EAA is now N7XV
Keith, 5208, was KI7RK is now KR7RK
Barry, 2774, was KB2VQR is now WA2CW
Tom, 2174, was KB2ULL is now AB2FG
Suzy, 4562, was KD5DJU is now AC5PP
Randy, 3251 was AB7TK is now K7TQ
Greg, 5400, was KC8JOW is now AB8DE
Paul, 3488, was K0PW is now K0GBC
Bob, 4263, was KC2CPQ is now KG2OK
Ralph, 3552, was KB8UAB is now AB8BN

Corrections

Jon, 4136, was incorrectly listed as AD5FX, he's actually AD6FX - old callsign was KF6OLA.
Paul K0GBC (ex-K0PW) is erroneously listed in the member lists as "Pul" - pse change it to "Paul"

Congratulations

To Craig W8CR on his upgrade to Extra!
To Janie KA7TFU on her upgrade to General!
To Gail N2WFH on passing her General!
To Ralph N3VJI on his upgrade to Extra!
To Mike AF4LQ on his upgrade to Extra!
To Barry WA2CW on his upgrade to Advanced!
To Tom AB2FG on his upgrade to Extra!
To Frank N3ZOC on his upgrade to Advanced!
To Greg W8XP and his wife on the birth of their first baby, Jennifer Louise on August 31. She weighed 9 lb 4oz and 20" long!
To Jim KN6TC on his upgrade to Extra!(last May!)
To Tom W7ARR on his upgrade to Extra!

Silent Keys

I'm sorry to have to tell you about the passing of some of our members.

We received this letter from the wife of FISTS member number 3863, "B.A.", W5RPJ: I'm sorry to inform you that my husband passed away Aug. 6, 1998. He did enjoy his radioing but he's been too ill to operate the past few months. Would appreciate your letting the Fists know. Sincerely, Alyce Phillips". If you'd like to send a card or note to Alyce, her address is 1807 E 16th, Georgetown TX, 78626

"It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you of the death of my father Howard, W2FB, FISTS # 1024. He died July 1st as a result of kidney cancer. He went quickly, dying only one month and twelve days after diagnosis. He was an avid amateur radio person for over 50 years and made wonderful friends all over the world as a result. Could you inform the other members of his passing somehow, as I know there are many Dad had contact with over the years? Thanks to your organization for being a part of his life. It is a part that he loved very much. He is dearly missed. Thank you, Sincerely James Newton and on behalf of his widow Ruth J. Newton." The Newtons may be reached at 1008 Smithridge Rd, Bridgeport NY, 13030

Our friend and fellow FISTS member #3249, W6EMT, Roy Gregson also passed away recently. He had been battling cancer and recently had a relapse. Roy was the owner of Emtech and supplied our FISTS QRP rig kit. His family may be reached at 3641 Preble St # A, Bremerton WA 98312

Del Walpole, W7UDZ #2064 touched the lives of many FISTS members. He was encouraged and comforted by the cards and letters he received from FISTS members during the course of his illness. Even though he was quite ill, he managed to get on the air and work FISTS 10th Anniversary event. His wife Frances may be reached at E 320 Budd Drive, Shelton WA 98584. She wrote and told me she still has some of his equipment for sale, but didn't give me a list, so you may want to drop her a note if you're interested.

Net News -- Net times and dates are on the masthead of each issue of the Keynote

Sunday Century Net

Aug 23: AC6TO (NCS); WA1GAG; K2SL; KC5VJU; N4VEF; K2SWZ; WA3WSJ; N5VC; K5LF; K5JER; W8BL; KI0KI; W5TVW; K4YKI. The Band was pretty lousy today as usual, but had 13 Check ins, and 10 QSO'S

Sept 6: W8FAX (NCS); WA1GAG; KC5VJU; W5TVW; AC6TO; W6GA; W8BL. Conditions were absolutely terrible today. I could hear all over the world, but NOT the USA!!!!

Sept 13: KC5VJU (NCS); AC6TO; W8BL; WA1GAG; K7ZYV; AA9KH. Thanks to all for their QNI, Maybe next time we will have more activity. The bands here have been lousy for a while am looking foward to them getting better soon.

Sept. 20: K8EY (NCS); KC5VJU; AC6TO; W1LIC W7SS; N4VEF; AA9KH; DL1CC; K7PGL; VE4GEC; KD6RDO. Cndx: Fair but QRP test in progress and very heavy QRM on NCS.

Waterway CW Net

The Waterway CW Net meets on 7128 @ 0700 each day with Monday, Wednesday and Friday designated as SLOW CW days. This isn't a FISTS net, but there are a lot of FISTS who check in, and I'm sure they'd welcome more.

Illinois Training Net

Bob, W1ZZL #3605 would like to invite everyone to check into the ITN (Illinois Training Net). It meets at 1900 Illinois local time, 3680. Net manager is KF9ME, Bob. The ITN handles traffic and checkins. They're really nice guys and gals and welcome anybody who would like to keep this net running. No fees, but lots of room for members. Net Control will reply at your speed - newcomers are welcome. Please check in and get your feet wet!

Maine Slow Speed Net

Wes, W1LIC, has taken over as net manager of the Maine Slow Speed Net. They meet nightly at 6PM eastern time on 3.685 MHz. Several of the net members, including those who do net control duties, are also FISTS (including W1QU, W1JX, AA1KF and N1CUR) While MSSN is primarily run as a traffic net and a training ground for those interested in traffic work, anyone is welcome to check in. As fall comes upon us and the days get shorter, 80 meters will lengthen out to there much of the eastern USA and Canada will be able to hear this net. Anyone who needs a Maine QSO for their FISTS WAS can usually find one here any evening.

A Midsummer Night's Eve Report by FISTS Slow Speed Group NCSCharlie KA8OQF

This is always the tough time of the year for the FISTS Slow Speed Group. 80m is where static goes for the summer, and it's not uncommon to have S9+10 QRN when the net meets.

For all of you out there who haven't heard us lately, I'd just like to remind you that we *are* out there under the pops and crackles, and when things cool off a bit toward the fall we'll grace your speaker again. And if you *do* check in (please, try - ya never know...), don't succumb to those first-time-on-the-net jitters - it's a casual ragchew event, with minimal guidance from the net control station. Stick around as long as you possibly can - just because no one's addressed anything to you in the last 20 minutes doesn't mean the next one up in line won't be calling you. Please don't just reach over and trip the big switch.

The FISTS Slow Speed Group is designed to reach out to our 5wpm sistern and brethren and give them a crack at all those FISTS/Century numbers, recipes, "how hot it is here" stories, and all the other things we rattle on about in the General bands.

We meet every Wednesday evening at 8 PM eastern time year round (I phrase it this way to eliminate the UTC time jump every spring and fall - be it daylight or standard time, if it's 8 pm on the right coast, we're on). Just tune us up on 3720 khz +/-2 and listen for the W8BI (I run the net from the club station of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association - it do make a difference having a 100+ foot tower to hang that dipole on). And if you decide to tune in every mid-May or so, you might even get to work our esteemed founder G3ZQS as he's W8-ing his way to Hamvention (although we'd rather have you with us weekly rather than yearly, OK?) See ya next Wednesday...

15 Meter Slo-Chat Net

Aug 2: KZ0N, VE6EWM, KD7BMC, VE5HQ
Aug 9: KI7JL, WA8QZS, AD6EZ, KD5CKP, KD7BAB, OK1WC..(Fran in Czech. Republic)
Aug 16: 1700Z: KI7JL, WN7SIU, KF6DGR, KD5CKP, KF4RRM, KF6GUH, KA9PQB, WA0REE, KB1CTC, VE5HQ 2300Z: K1RED, WB2YAF, KF4PYF, K0DG, VE5HQ
Aug 23: 1700z: KD5CKP, KF4PYF had QSO with AD6EZ..(Santa Barbara Lighthouse special event) 2300Z: KD5CKP, KF4RRM, AD6EZ.
Aug 30: KC5BUT, KE4RUN, KD5CKP, VE5HQ, KC5ZZ, WB2YAF, KBIDCU

Just for the record, not ALL these ops dropped in for a "slo-chat" - they just happened to be in the "neighbourhood". Any ops wishing to work slo CW (5 to 8 wpm).. please!...start gathering on and around 21.1580, es if you DO get a contact that is "hoofing it"...ask for QRS - hopefully ops will oblige in helping make this a slow CW spot. Big thing is condx....have to be patient... Keep dropping in! - call "CQ" - some gud days..some bad!

Questions? E-Mail..Bill (VE5HQ) : ve5hq@rac.ca
Becky (KF6GUH): kf6guh@hotmail.com
or Tim (kd5ckp): kd5ckp@bellsouth.net

Slo-Chat Success Story

The other day I had a rude awakening! I have been helping out a few of the ops on the FISTS Slo-Chat on 21.158 with CW practice by QSOing with them. Well, I had a QSO with Chris KF4RRM and he has improved to my speed! Yaahooo!...Now I have to get on the stick and get going with my own practice! My QSO with Chris has MOTIVATED me!
God Bless 72 de Denny AD6EZ

Reflections On QRN and QSB or Why The Slo-Chat..? By Dennis AD6EX

I know that the object of having the FISTS CW Slo-Chat is to give the new and maybe not-so-new ops wanting to get some slow CW practice a place to do their thing, but a QSO the other night made me very aware of a very important side benefit of working the Slo-Chat: QRN and QSB..!!!!

So you say, "Is Denny nuts or what! How can QRN and QSB be a side benefit, and how can it be important?" Well, the answer to your first question

is, OF COURSE he is nuts -- just ask his YL, she'll tell you. It's really best not to get her started, though, unless you have a lot of time on your hands. But that is an entirely different story for another time.

Question two -- How can QRN and QSB be a good thing? My QSO with Chris KD4RRM made me realize that due to the present solar cycle conditions we are being forced to deal with an exceptional amount of these two nasty factors in our operating environment. As annoying as those two "Q's" are I can't help but think that dealing with them, persevering and fighting through them to complete your QSO is a test-by-fire. If I were responsible for the training of top notch operators for an exotic DXpediton or perhaps a secret mission for the ARRL whose goal it was to prove the value of CW to the Governments of the world, (do you like that last scenario)? I WOULD NOT train them with tapes and computer generated code! I'd put them in the trenches and teach them to slug it out FISTS to FISTS. Because that is real-life out there folks and by the time conditions improve you will be much better operators for it. All that "hard" listening and, yes, guessing to fill in the missed characters and words (you will get better at that too) will pay off tenfold. Just as soon as this much awaited and approaching "peak" solar cycle gets here, it will start to decline and head back down for another 8 to 11 years. But by then, to all of you reading this, it won't matter one bit because it will be YOU helping out the newbies on Slo-Chats. You will have had the training-by-fire that has made you the top notch operator that you have become.

So instead of moaning and groaning about the noise and fading signals -- use them to your advantage. Consider them all a training aids. After all if you're reading this you took the time to learn the code in the first place and that wasn't easy. The way I see it, no one is going to be able to say that Denny is just a fair-weather operator. I hope that they can say that no matter what the conditions are they can always count on me! That is my goal, I hope it is yours, too.

So hurry up and get on the air every chance you get before we run out of QRN and QSB! Hang in there and may God truly bless you all and the wonderful YL's es OM's that we have for putting up with our radio es CW obsessions.

SLO-CHAT meets on Sundays at 1700Z and 2300Z on 21.158 +/- Please check out our Webpage at: <http://www.qsl.net/kd5ckp/slo-chat.htm> CUL es 73 es 88 de Denny AD6EZ

George Singleback, K4HXM, Silent Key

George K4HXM became a Silent Key on August 17. He had been a ham for 46 years, often Net Control on the Sunrise Net. He was a frequently contributor to the Keynote and I will miss his humor and way of "telling it like it is." He used to kid me about how I'd censor his articles for publication, so I decided to print this one as-is. I received it a few days before his death.

I have several things to comment on and a few that set me to cussing that I best not discuss in the presence of a lady.

First off, thanks much for the great job you do so well in turning out the interesting Keynote. A most uplifting and valuable addition to all who use Morse code.

Secondly, I would like to relate an interesting experience that has a moral for CW beginners and Old Timers alike. I have a habit of adjusting my speed to match the station I am calling. If he sends CQ at 15 WPM, I set my keyer to come as close to that speed as possible. I find that most of the fellows I know will do the same. Common courtesy, an expression of respect.

Well, recently I had a contact that causes me to review that practice. I answered a CQ after adjusting my speed to match the CQ. We both exchanged QTH and names. It quickly became obvious that the other station was having difficulty copying me. Band conditions were excellent and we were both reporting RST 579 signals. The other station asked for a repeat on name and QTH. Then, in a flash of shameless honesty, the other station asked me to QRS, and added, "Sorry, I can send faster than I can receive."

This simple admission taught me a lesson. Never assume the other station can receive at the speed he is transmitting. And if there is any doubt at all, just back off a few WPM. We finally ended up with him sending at fifteen WPM and I sending at six WPM. He was sending perfect CW, probably on a keyboard, and when I got the speed pulled way back, he was perfectly happy to continue the QSO.

I don't want to leave the impression that this problem is limited to the raw beginner. I know some older Hams

that have this character flaw. HI I would like to caution the raw beginner. Think about it. How else can the receiving station judge your speed ability? He has to assume you can copy what you can send.

One last comment about speed. I read letters to the Editor in major Amateur Radio publications, written by Morse code beginners complaining about how they have been abused by high speed CW operators refusing to lower their speed for the beginner and making snotty remarks to add insult to the abuse. Well whoop-de-do!! The world is full of jerks, and just because a guy knows how to operate Morse Code, doesn't automatically make him a gentleman. If you could watch him closely, you would see him toss his cigarette butts and fast food trash out of his car window. He will almost always push the shopping cart over into the handicapped parking spot and leave it. He's a jerk.

But the guys that write letters to a national magazine, that would demean the whole community of CW operators, is also some kind of jerk. I swear, if I read one more of these whining cry baby letters, I think I'll puke.

Some of the finest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing have been Amateur Radio Operators. I count it among my blessings, that they have accepted me into their company.

Tnx es 73, George K4HXM

New CW Wallpaper from 10-10

By Wes WILIC

With the 11 year sunspot cycle on the upswing now, 10 meters should be opening more frequently. Often this band is thought of primarily as a phone band and the CW portion is neglected.

Ten meters is my favorite band and I listen often and call CQ on 28.058. I also listen in the Novice CW sub-band. I especially like to work others who are FISTS and also members of 10-10 International. That way it is a "double whammy" in that I can collect two numbers, FISTS and 10-10.

For those who aren't aware, 10-10 offers a very nice CW award certificate for paid up 10-10 members who work 25 other members on CW. This award was just introduced last year and I am proud to hold 10-10 CW Award #10. It is a very nice looking certificate to hang on the wall of the shack beside my FISTS membership certificat and Century Award. I hope to work many other FISTS on 10 meters.

AA2VG/QRP/4

By Peter AA2VG

Finally the 3rd week of August had arrived. It was family trip time. Actually, let's change that to family vacation time. In the past I have always referred to a getaway with the XYL as a vacation while a getaway with the whole family (XYL, 17 y/o and 15 y/o daughters, 8 y/o son and Mom in law) is called a trip. We had so much fun this time I'll call it a vacation.

As usual hamming has always played some part in our vacations, at least for the past 6 years, the time I have been licensed and hopelessly afflicted by the need to QSO! The mobile 2 meter gets hooked up in the van for the drive and the MFJ Morse code trainer comes along so that CW amnesia doesn't set in.

This year I decided to take the family to a rare dx location, run CW QRP and perhaps be on the other end of a pileup. Our destination: Emerald Isle N.C. Iota NA 112. OK, so it's not rare dx and I didn't have a kilowatt of power or a yagi, but it was my first portable operation and it was FUN.

The family van was packed with 4 suitcases, 3 cameras, 3 bikes, 2 fishing poles, several beach chairs and of course 6 passengers. Perhaps you passed us on the Interstate!!! There was just enough room for my MFJ portable 30 meter rig, tuner, battery pack and 90 feet of 22 gauge wire (my antenna).

After our arrival and the van was unpacked my family took note of my constant gazing skyward. Other families might have been concerned that this was part of a psychological malady but my family knew I was in quest of the perfect random wire antenna structure.

We rented a house on the beach with lots of space for all. Since my shack at home is secluded in the basement accompanied only by the furnace and water heater, I found a spot to set up the rig and still be part of the family...The Kitchen Table. Comments from the girls, "Hey Dad what is all that stuff" — referring to the rig and paddles, made me realize that they really do not visit me in the basement. Nevertheless there is hope for my 8 y/o son who promptly explained all the stuff to his sisters. He also explained to them how he helped Dad hook the wire antenna to a tall bush and how only Dad got stung by a bee in the process!!

The rig and antenna worked marvelously well and I made a total of 18000 QSOs sorry the 0 key got stuck. I mean a total of 18 QSOs including 4 DX. All QSOs were made with five watts from battery power. The bottom line is that I had lots of fun and still got to interact with the family since they all visited me at the kitchen table... they got hungry! Peter S. DeLuca AA2VG

Sun Spot Report

By Bob WA3NSR #3396

Here is an update on Sunspot Cycle 23 which officially began in October 1996 and is predicted to reach its maximum around March 2000. *Thus at this time, Cycle 23 is about half way up its climb to the peak.* The above prediction was made by a panel of 12 international scientists recruited by the NOAA Space Environment Center who met in November 1996 and again in 1997. On 2 July 1998, the Space Environment Center issued a press release which stated that the international sunspot number for June 1998 was the largest since February 1993. The sunspot data archive for Cycle 22 indicated that the sunspot number for February 1993 was 69.3 and I assume that this number applies also to June 1998. The predicted sunspot number for June 1998 has a mean value of 98 with a lower bound of 76 which is close enough to the actual value of 69.3 to indicate that the predicted numbers for the remainder of Cycle 23 will be reasonable.

We hams think of solar activity in terms of radio propagation. This is only one aspect of the usefulness of solar activity predictions. These predictions are essential for satellite tracking and constellation management, orbit lifetime studies, and space mission planning for long-term orbiting platforms such as the International Space Station (ISS).

It should be noted that a smoothed monthly sunspot number of 69.3 is equivalent to a 10.7 cm solar flux value of 121.0.

HeathKit Manual Help Needed

Ray N9CIB, #1922, is the new owner of a Heathkit HW-8 Transceiver. However there is no manual with the rig. If anyone has an HW-8 manual, Ray is willing to pay for the cost of copying and mailing it to him. Contact him at: Ray Grundy, RR 1 Box 237, Louisville IL 62858 or Email n9cib@wabash.net

WWII POW/SWLs

By Robert W5XW

Were you a WWII POW whose family was told of your capture and status by an SWL who'd monitored America's turncoat German propagandist, "Axis Sally," from Berlin? Or, did you participate in such monitoring then write or wire the family of a POW after making such an extra-official intelligence intercept? Many Short-Wave Listeners (SWL's) did.

The Disabled American Veterans DAV MAGAZINE for July/August, 1998, has a poignant article about the recent discovery by former-POW army Sgt. Frank Davis in his mother's personal effects, 38 telegrams and letters from American SWL's, telling her of their intercept. It was good news at the time; the War Department only told her he was "wounded and MIA." But, she never mentioned it to her son.

Davis was never aware of this story. Now, fearing it will be lost forever he has begun to chronicle it for historical purposes. By writing to the 38 SWL's he located one surviving SWL and two SWL-survivor families. From there he began to assemble the story, learning of hundreds of SWL's, apparently uncoordinated and operating independently but all with the same ideal. One mother received notice from 65 different SWL's.

Davis asked his US Senators Roth and Biden to help get this page of history written; they in turn asked the DAV. So, if you played any part in this story, please contact Mr. Davis with the details, by telephone or fax at (302) 994-0109, or by mail at PO Box 6207, Stanton DE, 19804

Any Army Security Agency People Reading This? asks Larry W9CC

I have often wondered if there were any ASA people around the bands these days. I had a hunch someone must be because of the frequencies that end in 058. That of course is the Military Occupational Speciality (MOS) number of a Morse Intercept Operator in the Army Security Agency. Or at least it was when I was in the Army. I was in from very late 1958 through March 1st, 1962. I did the usual schooling at Ft. Devens, MA. Only mine was shorter because I already knew the Morse code. All I had to do was learn Cut Numbers and pass them at some specified speed. No problem. When they asked me where I wanted to go after school

I made the mistake of saying anywhere in Europe. I ended up in the Far East. For a short time I was on Okinawa, and then down for over a year to BVI-land, Taiwan. After coming back to the states I did over a year at the famous Two Rock Ranch Station, just down the road from where they filmed the Birds. There was a wonderful ham station there, W6ZZM. I filled several log books from there. Got down to Treasure Island in San Francisco and met many a fine ham there. I can never understand why so many people think ill of hams from CA. They were a great bunch as far as I am concerned!

I did war-games up in Washington state with the Special Forces (Green Berets). I was in the Aggressor Camp so was on their side, thank goodness.

Later, I re-inlisted in the Navy and was a Radioman aboard a Fleet Minesweeper, the USS Peregrine, which I always called the Pee-Green. I am currently trying to write an article for either Electric Radio or the QCWA that describes my radio room there. When I get it done, if you are interested, it might be run in sections in the Keynote. I never thought of that until just now. I'd rather see it there than anywhere!

73, Larry, W9CC, #1714. *That must have been a very interesting job Larry! If any ASA folks write me, I'll let you know. And by all means, send along your story, I'm sure it will be of interest to the other FISTS members.* - Nancy WZ8C

Rachel Cogent K5ZN

This was forwarded to me from Jim, K5JAZ. If you would like to write to Rachel Cogent, K5ZN, her address is Las Vegas Medical Center, Box 1388, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701-1388. "I found your QSL card in the a package my friend sent me from Santa Fe, dated June 3 1996. It must have been one of the last QSO's I had, because I've been in this mental hospital for 2 years now. My call then was KJ5ZN now it is K5ZN. I miss my morse code and my TenTec. They won't let me have transmitters here because they're afraid I'll use it to escape. My Fists # is 2152. I have a general coverage receiver here I use to follow the ARRL code bulletins. I am writing this for lack of anyone else to talk to, everyone else here is really a basket case and doesn't know what ham radio is. Well that's all, keep pounding and "73". Rachel Cogent K5ZN"

By Alan NSLF

Before FD, Nancy WZ8C, sent me a list of Austin, TX, Fists members. I was organizing the Austin ARC FD's CW station. My idea was to try to schedule experienced CW ops that could copy along side (coach, pat on the back, etc.) CW newcomers - who might be comfortable sending and twiddling the knobs, but were intimidated by trying to copy solid in a contest setting.

We did not muster enough folks for a separate Nov-ice/Tech CW station, but I got Fist member Tony Lyon to run the CW station during the day, and a great non-Fist CW Elmer, Bill Montgomery, to manage the station in the evening. I took the Saturday graveyard shift into Sunday.

We had difficulty coaxing newbies to the key - though many gathered around and watched us operate and a few tried to copy along. But, Sunday morning, a recent Advanced-class ham who had never really tried CW on the air tried her hand at CW. She reached for the keyer paddle, but we suggested she start with a straight key. After showing her the proper "fist" method of holding the key and how to use her forearm for sending, she tried it out. Her 10 wpm "CQ FD CQ FD DE W5KA W5KA K" was beautiful - she was a natural. Several of us told her so, and her eyes lit up as she tried again. But that sparkle turned into a huge grin when she heard the reply. She sent the exchange. He asked for her state again. She sent "STX STX BK," and he replied "R R R TUES GL." And she was hooked - running another 5 QSOs in a matter of minutes. Now she's let everyone at the Austin ARC know she is looking for a Navy-style straight key to add to her home station!

THINGS WE LEARNED AT FIELD DAY

By the FISTS Ohio Traveling Squad

WHAT GREG LEARNED:

- (1) There is actually a tunnel leading from the US to Canada in Detroit.
- (2) The Sultan of Swat's full name is George Herman Ruth.
- (3) The correct orientation of the valve train in a WWII Willys Jeep F-head engine.

WHAT CHARLIE LEARNED

- (1) You can have a competitive Field Day effort with a transceiver that only puts out 40 watts.
 - (2) To accomplish (1), you need properly constructed and tuned antennas. A 1/2 wave vertical dipole on 20 at 1/2 wave up and a 1/2 wave horizontal dipole on 40 at 1/4 wave up on a nicely built wood A-frame works *very* well.
 - (3) The setup in (2) works even better if it's built by someone who knows what he's doing, like someone who didn't know what the inside of a Jeep engine looks like.
 - (4) Field Day burgers n' brats go well with bagpipe/recorder/dulcimer music - although the first blast of the pipes did make me think someone was tuning up on my frequency.
 - (5) Well water tastes much better than city water (I brought 3 gallons home with me)
 - (6) It is possible to fall sound asleep riding down the Interstate in a pickup truck with the windows open, and stay that way for 30 miles or so. The only thing that will wake you up is the sound of a passing Camaro with an ~~ex~~xtremely healthy small block under the hood.
 - (7) I have GOT to get a pad to go under the sleeping bag in the tent for next year... my back is too old for this "roughing it" stuff...
- Speaking of next year, plans are being laid for operation from the ultimate Field Day site. There's this little bitty eye-blink town west of Ann Arbor with an unusual name. If all the plans come through, in 1999 the Michigan FISTS CW Club will be calling.
- CQ FIELD DAY FROM HELL**
- We can't wait... Greg W8XP and Charlie KA8OQF

WARC Calling Frequency

I periodically get letters asking if there is a FISTS calling frequency for the WARC bands. A few frequencies have been suggested but none seem to have caught on. Roy, W3ZIF, suggests 10.138 for 30 meters. He reports that most of the activity on that band is between 10.100 and 10.120. For 17 meters, he suggests 18.088. Both of these frequencies would not be that close to the edge of the band and might work out. Let me know what you think and if they should be added to the masthead of the Keynote.

Code Buddy Update

By John W9EM, Code Buddy Coordinator

Hello FISTS! August was a little slower than past months and it was nice to have some extra time so I could send letters to all of the Code Buddies I had in the database that I hadn't contacted. Thanks to everyone for their support and for returning your updated profile information. If you are a Code Buddy or if you are interested in becoming one and I haven't contacted you yet, please contact me. It must mean that I don't have you on file, because as of last month, I've sent e-mails or letters to everyone I have registered in the program since April.

Last month the Code Buddy database contained one hundred and fifty names. This month it grew again to one hundred eighty four. We had twenty four assignments (this includes both students and teachers). Most student applications have been assigned and I have a few teachers "waiting in the wings", but we are short in several parts of the country.

I have a couple of special requests this month. I'm looking for local help for a Tech in Memphis, TN who has 2M, 440 & 6M only. The second request is for a Code Buddy teacher that has a lot of patience and is looking to work in the novice/tech + bands with a very special Code Buddy near Chicago. If you think you might have an interest, please write to me and I'll share the details with you.

Last month I was invited to give the FISTS presentation to a local Ham Radio Club. It's the first time I used the presentation material and it is excellent. I would encourage anyone that is interested in spreading the FISTS word to contact Joe, KK5NA and get on the list to get a copy of the presentation for your local club. It's quite a rewarding experience.

The presentation is very professional and very well done. The only thing I changed was minor wording that better fit my presentation/speaking style and personality. As suggested, I embellished it with a few jokes, stories, and my some of my own experiences to make it more personal, but that is all minor stuff. The presentation stands on its own and the preparation time is minimal. Anyone can do this, that's how complete the package is. You even have a script.

Most of the questions I was asked were about mem-

bership, several about the Code Buddy program, but most people wanted to know how to learn CW. What's the best approach, most effective, etc.

I'd recommend the presentation to anyone in our group. It sends a powerful message. I hope more people try it and get in front of a couple of radio clubs in their area. It's fun and you meet and talk to a lot of nice people. I even got free coffee and cake, not that I need it. Hi.

Thanks again for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the FISTS Code Buddy Program.

Code Buddy Success Story

Gus, KA7MGM, writes "Being a Code Buddy to KK7OM has been a rewarding experience. By my log we have worked 55 QSO's of 1- 1 1/2 hours. He will be ready for his 20 WPM test soon! He sure has worked hard these last few months. I recommend the Code Buddy system to everyone who wishes to become more comfortable with CW." Thanks Gus, and all the Code Buddy "teachers" for their time and effort. It's your participation that makes the Code Buddy program a success!

Clean Audio Practice Circuit?

Fritz KF6JWL has the following query: "I have friends in local clubs who would possibly participate in CW nets. As far as we would like to also do 2 meter MCW, we have run into a real hurdle. The audio oscillator designs from four different sources: Ramsey Electronics Kit, MFJ577 Code Practice Oscillator, Schematic in ARRL book, Schematic in 7/97 QST, are all based upon the same IC circuit (7555 or 555) This IC is really designed for timers and it has two problems. First, a key click. This can be overcome by putting a few microfarads across the key. The other problem is a chirp or croak throughout all audio frequencies which is plain irritating. For this second misbehavior, we have no cure as yet.

It seems that someone should have a simple and inexpensive transistor-based practice circuit that generates a clean audio. I had one some 30 years back (before ICs) but it vanished somehow. None of us here knows enough electronics, or else has the time to design a circuit, which is regrettable. Any suggestions?

FISTS FEEDBACK

Comments about items previously printed in the Keynote.

This is from KE3FL in response to Bill, W1HIJ who wrote the "Speaking CW" article in issue #5 vol. XI on page 17-19. "In Bill's article I have only two comments, I've never heard of SN, ever. Bill claims that SN is used to mean, "I understand". I've never seen it printed in any ARRL publication of the last six years, and I have never heard it used on the air. I've "talked" with numerous old-timers who know a great deal more than I ever will of CW and they haven't used it. I guess they were being kind to a beginner.

Common practice is to use R to mean "Received" it is also, used to mean, "yes" - but I think it's more correct to say it means "Roger." By the way, if you send an R it really means, "I've received all of your transmission with no errors" - so it's incorrect to send, "R R got it all but pse send ur name agn OM ...". It's so easy to do isn't it? I've been trying to send OK when I've gotten most of the TX but need some fills.

Second, I've never heard KA used for starting a transmission. I can not say I've never heard of it, but I wouldn't have remembered it. I've never heard it used. Common practice is to use a series of V's as in VVV VVV and then start the transmission. ARRL uses this to start it's CW practice sessions, and its CW tests. Also, we use it to get people to tune-up, or zero-beat when we're starting a net such as the MDD or MSN CW nets hear in the Maryland area.

In CW traffic handling the C is used to mean, "yes". I'll have to check out the lessons in my MSN instructor's book, but I think it's explained to beginners in one of the first lessons. Thanks Bill for a very interesting and informative article. Please tell where I can hear SN and KA being used on the air, or are they history?" 73, KE3FL

Ernie KD6VMY had this to add to Bill's Speaking CW article: From a 1953 ARRL book: "AR" was only used when calling a station: "WZ8C de KD6VMY AR", not "K", which meant "anybody answer". "K" to be used with "CQ".

From Mac, W9NLA:

Have a couple of what might be interesting, to some of the newer/younger in particular people of FISTS, ISSUE 9 1998

comments to make on the "MILL" as written about on page 6 and 7 of ISSUE 7 1998. In the article they talked of it as a typewriter. It was that, but it was much different than a normal typewriter. It was all capital letters, and did have a SHIFT key that did do some other functions via that.

To those of us who used CW in our profession, it was a tool that allowed you to copy at a higher rate of speed and with the correct form in the "MILL" you presented the finished product as if it were a "TELEGRAM" which, in those days, was printed out in capital letters. The "MILL" was used by the CW operators for the WI State Patrol Communications Bureau, prior to the emergence of teletype and the nets that came to replace it, however, the State Patrol Radio Dispatchers all used the "MILL" instead of a typewriter until the computerized desks came along. It was manufactured by a number of major typewriter companies and there still should be some of them out there if you are interested.

I have a TOSHIBA T1200 laptop that is interference free to my equipment, and on "CAPS" almost/ALMOST is like my old and serviceable "MILL". Those who like CW will certainly enjoy having a manual "MILL" at their desk, believe me, they were great, and they are out there somewhere, and if electric - super deal. CUL 73. Mac/W9NLA Fists 3610

From Bill W6QR:

I was moved by Jim's plight, Issue 6, 1998, page 14 "Help!! Question. Please forward the following suggestions to him:

- 1) Many folks enjoy stealth operation using small, inconspicuous QRP rigs with hidden wire antennas. These seldom interfere with other electronics.
 - 2) Mobile whips can be clamped to an outdoor railing at night. I have a friend, W9BRD (Rod) who experiments with small multi-turn indoor loop transmitting antennas.
 - 3) Operate Mobile, Drive to a local park whenever you get the urge to operate.
 - 4) There are still some clubs that have stations you can operate.
 - 5) Some combination of the above like QRP in the evenings with a stealth antenna from home and a 100w mobile setup would provide a lot of options.
- 73 Bill, W6QR #1252

For Jim #3252 "Cry for Help" from Kent WA4DQU: No antennas in or out. Jim, you should be thankful. You are going to wind up the guru of hidden antennas. You have the opportunity to learn more about hidden antennas than anyone will ever know. Hams will be beating a path to your door for advice. Really, there is no advantage in a level playing field. The advantage comes from adversity.

Without knowledge of your conditions and equipment, one can only suggest what will work for you. It would be a lot easier to explain what worked for me over the past 33 years. All but one of those years I worked out with not more than three watts out into homebrew antennas built to fit the time and place. The mistake I made was not keeping good records of what I did. Second was talking to someone else in the complex, about ham radio, that is.

There is one thing that is a must and that is a good tuner. I use an L-network but I don't recommend it for over five watts to start with. Another thing that is a help but not needed is a dummy load that will take your power. It can be used with quick jump wires when you don't have time to put up a real antenna.

The possibilities are endless. How about a four poster bed with a canopy. This of a double horizontal loop. What about a platted rug with wire laced in. I have used a drop cord laying on grass. And yes, you can do well with an end feed wire laying on the grass.

Anyway, Jim, don't be broken hearted, you have a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop some fine hidden antennas. Don't ever get the idea that it has been done before, because it has not. And believe me, you learn quickly. Drop me a line or anyone that needs help and we can talk it over and you can take it from there. Kent Bailey, POBox 774, Aragon, GA 30104.

News and Views from FISTS Members

From Ken VA3KEW: Here is my membership renewal for another year. I have belonged to many different groups over the years in a variety of interests, but as I look back, this group of FISTS has given me more enjoyment than any of the others. It has enhanced my interest in CW and I look forward to meeting new FISTS friends. You are doing a great job along with your supporting cast.

Thanks Ken, letters like this make my day!

From Fred WD8MGO: Since I drive everywhere I carry my MFJ-418 Morse Tutor and play it whenever I get the chance. While I am in the studio with classical music in the background I keep the Morse Tutor set at a low audio level. My goal was to be in a creative relaxed mode and seeing the words in my mind. I have also found another use for the Morse tutor which is PR for the Morse code. My friends who are artists found the tutor to be the equivalent of the Gameboy for people who enjoy CW. On another topic, why not include 2 and 6 meters in the FISTS calling frequencies? VHF propagation has been very good. Whenever I am portable I always scan the CW portion but find little activity. This would also encourage contact between VHF types and FISTS. *Anyone have any calling frequency suggestions for 2 and 6 meters? I don't spend any time on those bands, so I can't be of any help here!*

From Murray VE3JMY: I've especially noted with interest explanations to the derivation of the salutation 73. I had heard it made a reference to the popular 73 Winchester rifle as in, after a visit, don't forget your 73! Maybe this other question has been answered before but UTC or GMT is referred to as Z for Zulu. One story I heard had something to do with the military. I'm sure others may be interested in the origins of the commonly used Z. *If I get any answers, Murray, I'll put them in the Keynote!*

From Wayne KA1OX: Here is my second renewal for the Keynote. I would like to tell you that I enjoy the newsletter a great deal. With all the articles on member, operating practices, QRP and so forth, I find myself reading it cover to cover several times. The club is growing and I am proud to be a member in it. I try to get on the FISTS frequencies whenever I can, and it is always a pleasure to talk to other members on different topics. I also want to commend you for the fine job of producing the Keynote each month and the time that goes into it.

Thanks Wayne! I like hearing that people read the newsletter because I do put a lot of time into it. But I couldn't do it without FISTS who send in comments and articles, so please keep 'em coming!

One thing I greatly admire about FISTS members is that they appreciate, or at least tolerate, what other people enjoy doing. Maybe it's just me, but letters

published in the major ham magazines seem to be getting more hostile. The common theme is denigration of other amateur's preferences. If the writer operates high power, the complaint is about QRP. The old timers complain about beginners or no-coders. I don't even need to mention the most common gripe—that the CW nuts are keeping the hobby in the dark ages. What a pleasure to get the Keynote each month, with pages of letters from hams who are enjoying themselves. Appreciation of the code and operating CW reveals a Great Truth in Life -- if an endeavor is effortless it's not rewarding. Copying a QRP signal through the static is an accomplishment for the receiving station. Deciphering bungled characters at 3 WPM from a new operator requires skill and patience on the part of the listener. Ham radio is fun partly because it requires a little effort. Digging out a QRP signal or coaxing a new ham through a QSO is interesting. If the person on the other end of the QSO is having fun, so am I, and it's obvious that FISTS understand this concept.

From Dave KB9MZZ: Looking forward to another year of making new and meeting old FISTS friends, and tnx again to my sponsors WB2FXK and AF9H. Haven't heard them in a while.

From Richard AC5OD: When my good friend Dale AC5OC brought me a copy of the Keynote, as soon as I saw the motto, I knew I had to join FISTS. I've had a couple of contacts with FISTS members, but knew nothing about what it was all about. Accuracy DOES transcend speed. CW isn't a race, and while I think you pick up speed as you improve, I remain unconvinced that some arbitrary WPM speed has any meaning or value at all. If CW is important, it's as important at 5 WPM as it is at 25WPM. I also appreciate you emphasizing courtesy. I've had my share of contacts with what I would consider to be rude ops, and it leaves a bad taste in your mouth. It's hard to understand why courteous operation isn't a given, but all any of us can do is be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. So, I'm happy to join FISTS and hope to be working many of you soon. Here's wishing everyone good conditions and decreased QRM.

This would be a good time to remind everyone of our COURTESY AT ALL TIMES; ACCURACY TRANSCENDS SPEED mottos! This is more important than I can stress and sets FISTS apart from the run of the mill opera-

tor. Let's try to set a good example - as Geo says, we are ambassadors for our country (not to mention our group FISTS!) when we're on the air. And Award/Number hunters, please take the time to have at least a short chat with the person who's number you're after. I am getting more and more letters from people who are feeling like a statistic rather than a fellow club member after the "hit and run" contacts just to get their number. The awards were created to encourage on the air activity, but it defeats the purpose when you're just out chasing numbers.

From Jerry VE5DC: I have been a ham for 40 years and use CW for most of my hamming on HF. I usually send with an iambic keyer and squeeze paddles but also use a keyboard or a computer sometimes. I like to use the keyboard because it sends perfect CW. I would like to see a FISTS calling frequency on 30 meters.

You're not the only one wanting WARC calling frequencies, Jerry - there's a short article about that in another part of the Keynote. Let's have some feedback on the proposed frequencies please!

From John KB7PIM: Thanks to all who put in effort to make the club a successful venture. I really appreciate the club QSL Buro. It is a great service. Thanks to the club that sponsors it!

Thanks John, I have many helpers, without whom FISTS couldn't possibly exist. In addition to the ones you see listed on the "how do I page", we have RJ, WB8HBJ, who reads the Keynote for the blind and Ken, W8ROG, who copies and mails the tapes for the blind.

Also many thanks to Dennis K6DF who makes/mails the new membership certificates!

From Norm K4YKI: I'm in FL taking care of family. No rug, no nightly CW ringing my ears, but I met a FISTS member, Bob KF4JRO. I was looking around for a link to the NTS so I could send msgs to the gang back home. The Sarasota 2 meter net wasn't able to help. But Bob was in net and I heard him talking about helping a local on a CW upgrade. He invited me to come to his QTH and use his rig anytime. Twice now, I have been at the key of his station, saving me from a serious case of the CW DT's. Another example of just how nice it is to meet a FISTS and a friend.

More News and Views from FISTS members...
From Ken KB3CCQ: I had my second great QSO with Bob WA2OVT during the Novice Round-Up. He was a great guy, despite my lack of speed and proficiency. So, I decided to join FISTS.
Thanks Bob; Operators like you are the reason FISTS is growing by leaps and bounds!

A Century Award question from Ann KE6OIO: What about club contacts with different Ops? I worked K6FFF by N6WU and later worked N6MNZ who was also working as K6FFF. Are both of these 4 baggers or only the first? *Only the first, Ann. You can only claim a call sign once toward the Century Award. The first QSO with K6FFF was three points, exchanging numbers with N6WU was another point, and then exchanging numbers with N6MNZ was another point. You can't count a club station more than once, no matter who was activating it.*

CAVEAT EMPTOR - Gene W2BWQ makes a good point in this letter: I'm a WWII submarine radio operator. CW has been my primary mode for many, many years. My purpose is to hopefully prevent another ham from suffering an experience similar to mine. I'm a "classic" gear buff. Recently I acquired an old but working Hammarlund HX50 which needed "some" work. In January of '98 I sent the rig to a ham in South Carolina, paying \$95 up front for prospective repairs. After many letters, phone calls, I have neither the rig nor the deposit money, now in it's seventh month. What does one do in a situation like this? There must be an answer. Going to some sort of litigation seems to be the only option. Be very careful in trusting your gear to someone and don't expose yourself to the disappointment as has befallen me.
That's terrible Gene. Anyone have any suggestions for Gene's situation??

From Dan KK7GR: I work out of town 20 days for the Union Pacific Railroad in Sparks, NV. While there, in the hotel, wait for work to call, I have a little QRP CW rig. I get my hotel room on the fifth floor because of a large tree just outside the window. I then throw about 70 feet of lamp cord wire over this tree, run the cord through my tuner, plug the rig in and I'm on the air. I run five watts on 30 meters and like to ragchew. Ham radio and CW keep my sanity whole away from home. If you hear me, give me a shout. Also I need a power transformer for my old EICO 720 CW rig.

Frank N3ZOC has invested in two new antennas, the Isotron-40 and the Isotron-80 by Bilal) and says these tiny jewels are working out great for his small lot. Hope to hear you during the Sprint, Frank!

Fritz KA9BXZ says he enjoys the Keynote more than QST but wonders if we couldn't lower the yearly subs? We could lower the subs, but then we'd have to make the Keynote smaller and cut out the extras like the photopages, and selling the supplies at cost to the members. The "old timer" FISTS may remember when subs were \$17.50 a year - and we've had a couple postage increases since I was able to lower the subs to \$15. Rumor has it we're having another postage increase in the near future, but I don't foresee having to raise the subs, thank goodness! When you look at all the benefits you get from your subs money (the bureau, the photopages, supplies at cost, certificates /mailing of certificates for the awards to name a few) I hope you think it's worth it!

Frank N9TA asks if I even HAVE a radio; he's never even heard me, let alone worked me! He suggests there might be a special award for working WZ8C - maybe give me my own DX prefix since I'm such rare DX, hi. Well, I guess I am pretty rare on the air - FISTS/working and keeping the household here under some semblance of control keeps me pretty busy! And I've had terrible luck with rigs lately. My Kenwood stopped working on me, and the Ten Tec Omni VI I just bought a few months ago is blown up now too. The left side of the rig lights up, but the display and the buttons on the right side don't. So that has to go back to the factory. I just hope that Ten Tec lives up to it's reputation for excellent service. So, when I do get the chance to get on (AND I WILL BE ON DURING THE FALL SPRINT come heck or high water!) I'll be using one of my old Heathkits or QRP with my Emtech 40.

From Charlie AC5PK: If anyone needs hints and kinks on mobile cw operation send them my way.

Wilderness Radio SST QRP Rig

By: Edward R. Breneiser, WA3WSJ

I have been a ham for about 25 years now and have always been interested in operating QRP. Well I finally purchased a qrp radio this July. After searching the internet, I picked a rig manufactured by Wilderness Radio, which can only be purchased in kit form. The rig is called the SST or Simple Superhet Transceiver and cost me \$85.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. I also purchased the electronic keyer/frequency counter kit which is named the KC1. The price for the keyer is \$ 45.00 plus \$3.00 shipping for a grand total of \$136.00.

I sent the check and specified that I wanted to operate on 20m. The SST may be operated on 40m general, 40m novice, 30m and 20m. The kits arrived in about seven working days with all the parts and manuals intact. I found the parts list corrected when necessary and the building instructions easy to understand. This is my first radio kit that I have ever built and it's definitely a good beginner kit. I work as an electronic technician and have built many electronic gadgets, but this kit can be built by almost anyone.

The reason that I bought this kit was size and current drain. The first thing I looked at was the specs for the radio. The size of the SST is 1.5" (H) x 3.4" (W) x 3.7" (D) and it comes with an unfinished .050" aluminum cabinet. The size of the keyer is 2.5" (L) x .8" (W) and installs nicely on the left side of the rig top cover. The SST has a voltage range of 9 to 16v although operation below 10v requires a different voltage regulator.

The current drain in receive mode is 15ma and 23ma with the KC1 Keyer. The current drain while transmitting is approximately 100-150ma at one watt and 225- 250ma at two watts. My SST drew about 230ma at 12.5v and had about two watts of output.

The receiver spec for sensitivity is stated at 135dbm MDS or minimum discernible signal, but I measured a MDS of -129dbm with my rig. Receiver selectivity is specified at 200 400 hz @ -6db and my rig measured about the same. The spec for frequency range on 20m is 14.040 14.055mhz with varactor D4B or 14.050 14.060 with DBA. With an external switch for the varactors you can have a range of 14.040 - 14.060mhz. Using varactor DBA, the range of my rig is 14.050 to 14.061mhz.

It took me five hours to build my SST and about

ten minutes to tune the rig. Only two capacitors and a potentiometer are involved in the tuning procedure. One capacitor for the antenna input circuit another capacitor for the transmitter and a potentiometer for drive to the final RF amplifier. The KC1 keyer/frequency counter took me about fifteen minutes to build and about an hour to install in the rig. The only problem that I had building the SST was with the keyer. The pushbutton switches have lock nuts installed to tightly and I had to install new switches, which I purchased at a local Radio Shack store.

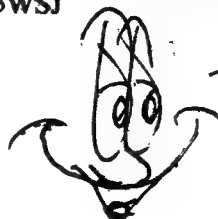
I also installed an additional jack for my paddles above the original jack. I now have a jack for my straight key and a jack for my paddles.

I now have my SST ready for operation on 20m. I read the programming instructions for the keyer and it checks out fine too. Now I am ready for a QSO. My antenna is a Mosley TA33 up about thirty-two feet with 9913 coax feeding it. My first CQ with this setup yields G0WAY! Since that qso, I have worked all over Europe and California using this setup. I am very pleased with my SST and would recommend this rig to anyone who is interested in QRP.

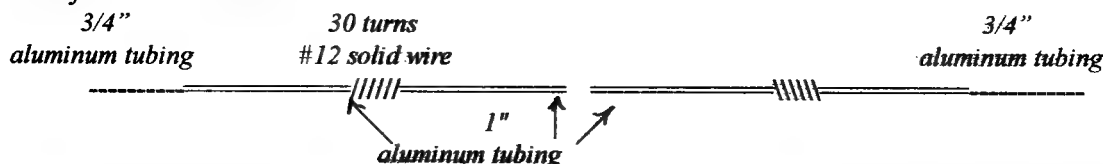
While operating the SST, I noticed a few items that need improvement. The first is noise from the keyer chip. When you push the frequency button to get a cw frequency readout, the operator can hear noise from the PIC16c84 chip. This isn't very loud, but I can hear it. The only other item is the sidetone is rather loud. Other hams that I have worked who use the SST have said the same thing about the sidetone.

Overall the SST is a great QRP rig. I am having a ball operating DX with just two watts! The receiver works great with weak and strong signals. The KC1 Keyer non-volatile message memory can store up to 50 characters and segment them into numerous messages. I have my CQ message for my first, my QTH for my second message and my name for the third message. The KC1 is a nice very small keyer and I can get a frequency reading in cw by pushing the frequency button.

So, if you want a great little QRP rig, I recommend the Wilderness SST. I hope to hear you on the air! 73, WA3WSJ

CLL  - Alan N6RNP
For CLL

I have been doing some Sanford & Son engineering and came up with a cheap rotatable dipole for 20M CW. I have operated a little tonight and it seems to do a good job. Mind you, the bands are stinky today, but what the heck. I am running a TR-7 at 75W and the dipole is up on the tower temporarily mounted at 25Ft. It is set for a East/West pattern at this time. I worked FISTS in Washington state, AZ, and SC. I had a call from VE6EWM near Calgary, AB with a 599 report and he was running 3W. So, anyway, I wanted to share this with you.



The two off center loading coils are wound with 30 turns of #12 insulated solid house wiring. I used 7/8" wooden dowel stock 2 ft long to connect the two 1" tubes together. They fit snug and a little adhesive holds them nicely. I soldered eyelet connectors on the end of the loading coils and screw them through the 1" pipe into the wooden dowel. This also helps keep them in place. The outside tips of the 1" tubing was slit with a hacksaw and then a hose clamp pulled it down on the 3/4" aluminum tubing. The base plate is made from an old kitchen nylon cutting board about 14" square. The tubing is mounted on the board with 4 U-bolts and the board is reinforced on the opposite side with 1 1/4" wooden dowel. The U-bolts are long enough to fit all... 1 1/2 X 5"... I used pvc couplers on the 1" tubing where the U-bolts connected to give strength to the tubing so it wouldn't crush. It is fed with RG-8 and the balun is made from RG-58. I wound 8 ft of RG-58 into an 8 turn coil with about 2 ft of coax hanging on each side. (total length is 12ft) The feed point is attached with screws and eyelet connectors. This is a cheap antenna and it works well. It can be built for under \$30.00 and is only abt 17 ft long. When I get my film developed, I will Email you some shots if you're interested... I tuned it with my analyser and on the step ladder she dipped at 14.058 with a 2.5 : 1 and when I got it up in the air..... 1.2 : 1 across the CW portion of the band..... Whew, a good FISTS ANTENNA..... So hope you have a good week and best of 73..... DE JOHN KG9HV FISTS 1750 Lafayette, IN

Building A TEN TEC 1340

By Homer W8QYW

Lets start at the beginning. I'm 77 years old and in the prime of my geezerhood. Been a CW addict for around 60 years and shooting for more. The first of this year I had a few bucks left over from a Christmas gift and decided to have a go at QRP.

I knew very little about modern QRP rigs but decided to order a Ten Tec model 1340 for 40 meters. The kit arrived and I was amazed at the sophisticated layout! My first thoughts were: "Come on Ten Tec, give me a break"... you want me to solder in 216 components including 4 IC's, 19 transistors and 13 diodes on a 3 1/2 4x5 inch board?. Well I made an appointment with my ophthalmologist, and having worked as a jeweler for 25 years dragged out an old jeweler's loupe and prepared for the worst. Needless to say I purchased a new low wattage soldering iron with a fine tip and some high grade solder of small diameter. A friend who is handy with wood made me a gig to hold the circuit board up off the table about six inches so I wouldn't have to bend over my work and ruin my neck!

Years back I used to build Heath Kits at a race horse

pace... I decided to slow down. This kit cried out for slow and meticulous construction. I opted for about two hours a day, The manual was very fine and detailed and requires 8 consecutive steps, with some test procedures after some of the steps After messing around with the test procedures I decided to skip them and completely build the kit and do all the alignments after it was built. Foolhardy, but Hams are that way!

The great day arrived. My Astron 25 amp power supply was piped into the little Ten Tec and I was ready to throw the switch. It was either going to be QRP or R.I.P I closed my eyes and flipped the toggle. no blinding flash. no smell of smoke. The little gem just sat there digesting the 13.8 volts. With some adjusting of the "cans" a 40 meter signal was heard! Nirvana! After tuning up the receiver and transmitter I put the rig on the air and soon had a contact. I purchased a MFJ-971 tuner which makes a fine addition to the little rig and have had great results with this outfit. My ICOM 751-A is getting a much needed rest since QRP entered my life. In closing let me say to all you FIST members who may be contemplating a QRP kit: "Go for it"... build it slow and carefully and you'll be rewarded with loads of great fun! 73 Homer W8QYW

Tips on Learning To Send CW

By Marty WD4AXJ

One of the hardest things to do in amateur radio is learning to send code correctly. I would put it right up there at the top of the list in a first place tie with building a Heathkit HW-101 as your very first radio project. (which I did but since I am the author of this article I am not about to tell you all the dumb mistakes I made during that little debacle.) But I digress, so lets get back to learning to send.

I am sure that quite a few of us remember the frustration as a novice of trying to keep people from running off during a QSO. I would cruise the novice portion of 40 meters until I heard a strong S-9 signal calling a CQ, then fire off what I thought was a snappy return to the stations call. But when he came back he would invariably have my call wrong. (This guy must be as green as me, I would snicker.) It never occurred to me that my CW was so bad I sounded like a woodpecker who had been out on an all night drunk.

Because of this, not many people wanted to hang around and chit-chat. I thought that I had overlooked a rule which stated that QSOs could only last for 5 minutes! To keep others from having this same embarrassing experience, here are a few helpful hints to get you off on the right foot.

(1) It might be tempting to start off with paddles and keyer, but don't do it! Start with a GOOD straight key. This is easier to use for a beginner because it is simple. The only things involved are your brain, your hand and the key. Things can get complicated in a hurry when you are worried about the weight setting, speed setting, RF getting into the circuit and causing errors beyond your control with a keyer and paddle so leave them alone *until* you master the basics.

(2) Set the gap on your key close enough that you don't hear a loud click on the closure and wide enough that you are not sending inadvertent dits every time your hand rest a little too heavy on the key. I know that this is a rough guess at setting your spacing but the truth is everyone sends and holds a key differently. Experiment with your hand position until you find one that is comfortable for you.

(3) No secret here; practice a LOT trying to mimic WIAW's spacing, character length and crisp sending.

(4) Anchor that key down solid! It's hard enough to send correctly without having to chase your key all

over the desk. I recommend a heavy base and if necessary, nail, glue or strap your key down. Trying to send with a cheap light key on a slippery desk is like trying to pat a kid on the head who has just downed a six-pack of Jolt cola. I guarantee your hand won't hit the same place twice on a row.

(5) Don't try to consciously increase your speed. Speed will take care of itself as your sending improves. In twenty-two years of CW work I have never been told "Gee, you're fast, that is great!" I HAVE been told in effect "slow down, I can't understand a thing you are saying!" The best compliment you can get on the air is that your CW is a pleasure to copy.

So follow the above hints and soon you will be getting more compliments on your fist. One other important thing a straight key has going for it is that when hiking to the end of an 8 mile trail for a little portable QRP operation, you will never have to worry about the other hikers reporting a wild man filling the air with vile invectives about a dead keyer battery. (This never really happened, I swear!) 73- CU on 40 soon, WD4AXJ, Professional mangler of Morse code.

Sending Tips

By Carl N2XJ

I started out using a straight key as everyone did in 1928. Later, moved up to a Vibroplex bug which did all of my finger talking until electronic keyers made their debut. Iambic squeeze-keying especially challenged me to add another string to my CW sending bow. So, I practiced and practiced until I felt able to use it on the air. Then, lo and behold! I could no longer use my bug! I felt cheated. Instead of having acquired a new skill, I merely traded in one for another.

Fortunately KZ5DE in the Canal Zone whom I used to work regularly had had the same problem. His advice: 1) Stop using the keyer 2) Re-learn bug sending 3) Then, and only then, use the keyer.

Believe it or not, KZ5DE's suggestions worked for me and today I can use all three methods of sending CW. Squeeze keying with self-completing characters (Curtis "B" chip) is the easiest and I use it virtually all the time. But if my keyer acts up, by bugs right there and I can keep on handling traffic or rag-chewing without missing a beat.

I'd rather be remembered as a Silent Key than a Dead Mic! CW forever, Carl N2XJ

QRP With John Shannon

I had some nice feedback from my zero-beat article. Let me share some of it with you.

Galen, WA6SBB writes. Hi John, I read your QRP column concerning zero beating, with great interest. Several years ago, three of us started a CW sked. We were running three different rigs. Mine (Kenwood TS-520 at that time) used "Lower Side Band" for the CW offset tone. My tonal abilities leave a great deal to be desired and I seemed to always be "off" frequency. When we would add a fourth or fifth fella, it was a real challenge. The analog tuning dial did not help a whole lot either. Finally, I switched to "Tune" position on the rig and simply zero beat, exactly as we used to with a heterodyne frequency meter. Then switch back to CW and I was there. Also going to "Upper Side Band" (in my rig's case) and nulling the tone accomplished the same goal. I have upgraded to a TS-930 with digital readout, so the "sked" is not really a problem anymore. When someone is off frequency a bit, I use the RIT and know I will be "on freq" with the transmitter. Answering a CQ still requires a quick flip to either "tune" or "USB", zero or null, and then back to CW. It can be done very quickly and I can then answer with the confidence of being on frequency. Thank you for the good work and very interesting column. I look forward to reading the Keynote and especially your QRP Column.

Thanks for the additional info, Galen. As I said each rig has its own peculiarities when it comes to zero-beating.

Emory, N4LP sent the following via Email: John; I've read many an explanation of zero-beating during my 18 years as a Ham, but the one you wrote for the Volume 11, Issue 6, 1998 edition of "The Keynote" is EASILY the most understandable and clearest version I've yet to come across, and I read a lot of material on Ham Radio. Thanks for clearing up some points of confusion for me, and you can bet, I'll be reading your column from now on. Checked out your website as well, and found a SECOND treasure trove there. You must be one quality conscious guy, and obviously, a real credit to the hobby. Thanks again'. That's what makes writing this column (and having my website) so rewarding. Knowing that I can help someone out in some way. Thank you Emory.

Tom, AC5JH wrote on a different matter. He sent a

report on his club's QRP activities which I would like to share with you.

BRARC participated in the NorCal QRP Club's annual "To the Field" event. This year, QRPer's were encouraged to set up portable operations on state lines. There were at least eighteen border operations around the country which accounted for 34 different states. Adding in the single state operators, nearly all 50 states were represented plus DX stations in Mex and Cuba. We were set up on the MS/LA state line in Osyka. Many thanks to Harold Parret in Osyka for graciously allowing us to set up on his property, right on the line. This was a QRP event and it was the first time some of our operators had ever worked a contest with 5 watts or less. At this time, we do not know how we did in the standings but from the scores I have seen posted on the Internet, we made a very respectable showing. We learned a lot about QRP portable operating, enjoyed a great day with friends and had some great BarBQ. What more could you ask. We had a special guest from Rochester, MN, "Doc" Lindsey K0EVZ. He is an experienced QRPer and a good CW operator. His plans to participate in the event on a three state border were changed when he had to be in New Orleans for a conference on Friday. He was free all day Saturday so he rented a car and met us at the LA/MS border. I had worked him as a fellow FISTS member and also as a Fox in the QRP-L Fox Hunts, so we were somewhat familiar with each other. Thanks to QRP, CW, the internet, e-mail and Ma Bell we made the connection and it all made for an interesting twist for the event. He showed up with his whole QRP rig in a small satchel and we were duly impressed, since it almost took a bus for us to transport our gear. We made several contacts with it when the battery on the Scout died. It was exciting to actually make a contact with such minimal equipment. We had five operators and five "support" people. Those operating were "Doc", K0EVZ; Lee, W5ZDW; Richie, W5XV; Pat, K5AHE and Tom, AC5JH. Others were Joe, K5HLR; Dayna, KC5MFR; Bill, KC5WYY and Richie, Jr. (Dana had to drive Lee up there because he was still not allowed to drive after having back surgery. It didn't hurt his CW any, that's for sure.) I save a special line for Pharaoh because the meal he prepared was great and one of the high points of the day. Maybe THE high point of the day for some of us. Special thanks must go to Butch, N5SMQ. He put out a lot of effort and provided a

load of equipment that helped to make the event a success. Mainly a 3 element 40m wire beam, a Hustler vertical, batteries, coax and more. Work got in the way and he was not able to be there in person but his efforts really made a difference. Finally, our score for the event was 60,760 points. We had 23 QSO's on 20 meters in 17 states and 26 QSO on 40 meters in 17 states. We worked 9 other border ops plus Mex and Cuba. All in all, a good day of portable operating. Everyone agreed that we should make the NorCal "To The Field" event an annual affair for the club. Next years theme will be announced in a month or so and we can start making plans. I am looking forward to it

Tom also sent a copy of the CW column he writes for the club. Tom was in Australia during June, and I hope to hear of his QRP activities there. I'm over a bit, so 73 - visit my web site at www.alltel.net/~johnshan, Email johnshan@alltel.net, or regular mail to 478 E. High St. Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. -30-

QRP With John Shannon Con't

Well, as Nancy mentioned in the last Keynote, my column was preempted in the past two Keynotes for some much more urgent information about license restructuring. She offered me an extra full page in this issue, and I probably could fill it, but I won't because I am not the only one who got preempted, and there is much other material to get caught up on as well.

I'd just like to bring to your attention two matters I think are of interest. As you know, my whole ham life is QRP. I operate 100% QRP on all 9 HF bands. Because of that, I am not overly enthused with the little one-band QRP kits. Oh, they are great for the casual QRP operator or for use on camping trips, etc., but I want something that operates all 9 bands. Recently such a kit has been made available. In fact, two such kits have come on the market. I have looked at the specs on their Internet sites, and they look quite good. Both are in the same price range around 600 dollars. If you are seriously interested, you can find out more by visiting my web site and following the links to their sites. The companies are Elecraft and S&S Engineering. The links are on my QRP Equipment links page. If enough of you are interested who don't have internet access, I'll give more info about these rigs in

a future column.

Second, we have discussed zero-beating quite a bit lately, and W6OWP sent a diagram of a clever little device that can aid in zero beating a signal. It works by lighting an LED when the received tone is at a certain frequency.

For example if your transceiver uses 700 Hz as an offset, you set the device so that it triggers at 700 Hz. Then when you tune in a signal and the LED comes on, you know you are tuned to zero beat. I haven't tried it myself, but it looks really neat. It only uses a handful of parts and would be very simple to build.

If you'd like a copy of the diagram with a parts list and instructions, send me an SASE plus an extra loose 20 or 32 cent stamp (to cover my cost of making copies), and I'll send it to you. Soon it will become much easier to work DX with our QRP setups. In fact, I have already worked 100 countries this year with my QRP and simple wire antennas, so conditions are definitely better than they have been in several years now. Of course, you'll want to get those QSL's as quickly as possible when you do work the DX.

If you haven't already discovered it, I now have an all in one QSL route finder on my web site that provides direct access to about a dozen callsign servers and a couple dozen other sources of QSL info, managers, lists, etc. Check it out. I've gotten many favorable comments about it. Next month, hopefully we'll be back into the regular routine here in the Keynote. Remember, if there is anything you would like to see discussed in my column, let me know. Ideas from you keep the column interesting. I'd still like to hear from you about your most interesting QRP QSO or achievement with QRP so I can share it with the readers here. There is still a lot of interest in reviews of various QRP rigs. If you own a QRP transceiver, and want to try your hand at writing a review, give it a shot. Those reviews are not part of my column, but are to be sent directly to Nancy to be included elsewhere in the Keynote. You can contact me in any of three ways. My web site is at <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan>, my Email is johnshan@alltel.net, and my regular mail address is John. H. Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Hope to hear from you soon. -30-

Fists Spring Sprint 1998 Results
By Sprint Manager Tom AC5JH

Call	QSO pts	Mult	Total Score	Call	QSO pts	Mult	Total Score
K4MF	565	42	23730	WASRND	57	5	285
N4BP/QRP	476	33	15411	KQ0I/QRP	46	6	276
N2ED	366	36	13176	KC7MZF	37	6	222
WA7YYY	361	34	12274	KN5BJ	35	6	210
W8EQA	361	33	11913	KM5BJ	35	6	210
K2ACW	348	32	11136	W9CC	39	5	195
W3ERU	274	35	9590	VE5HQ	30	5	150
NN9K/QRP	390	19	7410	N2ZHF	25	4	100
KS4DU	213	24	5112	KD5CRI/AG	17	4	68
K8OUA/QRP	205	23	4715	KC0COP	20	3	60
W3DP	235	20	4700				
WD8OCV	185	25	4625	Soapbox comments are not available at this time, sorry!! I hope to be able to include them in an upcoming issue of the Keynote.			
KQ6ES	194	23	4462				
AA9KH	176	23	4048				
N5OE/QRP	174	23	4002				
VE3FMC	182	20	3640				
KF6GUH	184	19	3496				
AE2L	148	21	3108				
KG2BI	145	19	2755				
K4UK/M	141	17	2397	More FISTS News and Views....			
WB2EXI	124	19	2356	From Bill K3AS: I just had what I think is a good			
N5TW	137	17	2329	idea. I would like to see one of the talented computer			
WA2VQV	136	17	2312	experts/artists in the club to design a FISTS Log Page,			
NC4S	116	19	2204	with FISTS logo etc. Not just for contests but gen-			
AE4QS	129	16	2064	eral use. Put it on the web page and in an issue of			
W3NGO	122	16	1952	The Keynote, where individual members can make			
K3WWP/QRP	122	14	1708	photo copies and punch for a 3 ring binder or have it			
K7ZEN	111	14	1554	spiral bound at a local shop. Perhaps a cover design			
WA2BQI	117	13	1521	and then the log page itself. I sure would go for it! 73			
NA3V	106	14	1484				
NOIBT	111	13	1443				
N4UY/QRP	89	15	1335	Doug ZP6CW sends his best wishes from Paraguay.			
KS6Z	87	15	1305	He's recently put up a 7-element Yagi and in just over			
KE4LIA/QRP	97	12	1164	a month has made 4,000 CW QSOs. He's certainly			
N0BI	93	11	1023	doing all he can to keep CW bands active!			
W7GB	68	13	884				
K0OAL	72	11	792	John W8JOH received the following note in the mail			
K2WP	84	9	756	it just made his day as you might imagine! Thanks			
AC5JH/QRP	62	12	744	for sharing it John, you're right - FISTS members			
K8MIA	80	9	720	CAN do something right, hi. "Hi, thanks a lot for the			
W2NGB	79	9	711	contact. You were the first contact that I made that			
K6DF	64	9	576	copied all the information. At the end, someone started			
K1EQA/QRP	64	9	576	to send over you. They must have been real close to			
W1LIC	62	9	558	me because the station was well into my red zone on			
N6MNZ	60	9	540	400 the SWR meter. Im 14 years old and I just got my			
KE3CR	50	8	396	tech+ about 2 weeks ago. Thanks for the contact!			
KQ6NS	44	9	385	Adam KC2CZI"			
WZ8C	55	7	376				
VE6ZAA	47	8	376				
K9DIY/QRP	47	8	312				
N1HOG	45	6					

FALL SPRINT

OFFICIAL FISTS FALL SPRINT RULES

OBJECTIVE: To exchange specified information with as many U.S. or Canadian FISTS CW Club stations as possible, using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

PARTICIPANTS: Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member, is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a U.S. or Canadian station.

WHEN: From 1700UTC to 2100UTC on the second Saturday in October.

BANDS: Operation is limited to 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter amateur bands. Work stations once per band. 2-way CW only.

CATEGORIES: There are two categories — QRP is limited to 5 watts output power or less; QRO is over 5 watts output power. To count as a QRP entry a station must operate QRP for the entire contest. A station can not enter both QRP and QRO categories.

EXCHANGE:

RST, Name, QTH, Fists number or power in watts. If operating in the Novice Bands, you also will need to know the class of the station you are operating since Novice or Tech Plus count extra points.

SCORING: QSO POINTS:

If YOU are a General class license or higher:

Each QSO with a Novice/Tech FISTS member is worth 10 points.

Each QSO with a General or higher FISTS member is worth 5 points.

Each QSO with a Novice/Tech non-FISTS member is worth 5 points.

Each QSO with a General or higher non-FISTS member is worth 2 points.

If YOU are a Novice or Tech: count 10 points per QSO with FISTS members, and 5 points per QSO with non-FISTS.

MULTIPLIERS: Each State or Canadian province counts as a multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. However, DX countries count as a multiplier on each band worked.

FINAL SCORE: QSO points times Multipliers. Logs must show all exchange information, mark Novice/Tech stations worked as /N or /T. Novice and Tech station logs must indicate their license class status on their logs. QRP stations must indicate their power status on their logs. Logs without such an indication will be considered QRO status.

Sending the logs is what counts and they will be checked for correctness.

All logs are welcome and the format just needs to be something I can understand.

Send a copy of your log within 30 days of the Sprint to:

Tom Waits, AC5JH
4346 Rose Garden Circle
Zachary, La. 70791

Everyone is welcome to operate in the Sprint - FISTS and nonFISTS! Help spread the word in your club newsletters, meetings, etc so we have a great turn-out!

Ham Radio Journal: From "No Code" To FISTS

by Charles A. Parmenter, AB0HQ

After eighteen months in amateur radio, I looked around the shack and took a physical, personal, and cultural review and inventory of my journey into, and lessons learned so far, in amateur radio. This avocation lends itself to an easy "chronology of events". Logbooks, QSL cards, licenses, and other wallpaper document those 18 months and make this journal possible.

I grew up listening to shortwave radio—still do—fascinated by DX, but didn't get my Technician license until January, 1997. The no-code license was inviting; I didn't have to start off with Morse code and it looked like a good way to meet some hams. Besides, I was proud of my first ticket; it was solid evidence I had done some studying and knew at least a little about radio and electronics. I wanted HF DX, and knew I had to earn it, I figured even the FCC had enough sense to keep a raw recruit off the HF firing line. With a quick search of the Internet, I found and started using code practice programs, and in March, 1997, passed Elements 1A and 3B. About the same time I found an "Elmer List" on the Internet, and received e-mail from Larry, N0SA, FISTS 4933. Lucky for me, he was close and shared the same interests; soon he came over with a TenTec CW rig and plenty of books. I was hooked: we creekrats call it finesse fishing: lightly dangle something discreet, subtle, yet elegant, and you'll get strikes from lunkers who ignore the flash of a noisy buzzbait. So far, two lessons learned that are contrary to the following Ham Radio Myths (HRM's): the no-code/incentive licensing structure sucks, and the Internet is another nail in the Ham Coffin. One lesson learned is consistent with the following Ham Radio Truth (HRT's): Elmers are critical to our existence.

As compelling as ham radio is, it ain't enough to keep me off the creeks or out of my canoe, and I went through Spring and early Summer of '97 without a QSO, well, actually, without a radio (well, not quite, I had an old Heath SB One O'Something but didn't have the guts to plug it in), but did catch some nice fish (one of which proudly adorns my QSL card!). In July of 1997, Larry and I went to a ham show and I bought a cheap two meter HT. I didn't know a repeater from a dummy load (no, YOU make the argument they're the same) but hams I knew were always talking about working two meters. I remember thinking it curious that Larry, an Amateur Extra with twenty or so years experience, didn't own one. At some point, I accidentally figured out what an offset was, and finally had a QSO. But, as creekrats will tell you, fishing REALLY gets good in the fall, so the HT collected dust. The lesson learned here is consistent with the following Ham Radio Rumor (HRR's): there is life without two meters.

Winter of '97/98 settles in, and with exception of the annual Winter Float Camp, the canoe and tackle lay idle, and I realize I need to get serious about code and get up to 13 WPM by March '98, or have to retest Element 3B. Larry, wise Elmer, suggests the "tapes and WIAW" approach secondary to GET ON THE AIR. He invites me over, sees my ineptness with paddles, sticks a straight key in front of me and tunes the novice section of 40. On January 18, 1998 my CQ gets answered immediately; thankfully, Larry's there to copy; despite a really patient ham on the other end throttling down because it's my first QSO (Txn agn, WA4ZOP!), I'm too excited to copy. Larry

got a kick out of it too; I still kid him about it: "Yo, Larry, was it as good for you as it was for me?" I was re-hooked. Within a few weeks, after some judicious trading, I had a nice straight key, and the perfect newbie rig: Larry's mint Kenwood TS120, no mike. The lesson here is for Elmers, consistent with the following HRT: be doubly patient with creek-fishing fanatics; sooner or later they come in from the cold. Have a radio ready.

Larry was right, of course; I worked stations with a relish, quick and friendly "hi-byes" and fun ragchews, and got my speed up to pass element 1B; more importantly, I had the confidence, interest, and Elmer to keep going. I bored him—still do—with the details of every QSO and started collecting and mapping QSLs. One day we were hanging out in my modest shack, and the Wife asks what "her nerds" are up to. I was offended—my Elmer was no mere nerd, he was an Extra Nerd, and I was a General Nerd! On May 22, 1998, I passed elements 1C and 4B and Larry presented me with the coveted Certificate of Achievement: Extra Nerd. Framed, signed by Larry, EN-1, it hangs above my license. The lesson here better be obvious to all: Be Proud Of Our Nerdness—No Normal Humans Allowed!

Oh, you ask, we're not normal? Well, you tell me, but first ask the contesters, who may now read this backwards for a double multiplier, or better yet, read Wayne Green. Listen to the two meter repeater gurus ("QSL, QSL, the personal here is Beanhead, Beanhead, Bravo Echo Alpha November Hotel Echo Alpha Delta, and I'll QSY to 440 when I'm destined at the QTH if the XYL ain't home, Hi Hi. ONO812 for ID."), or if you're a Real Ham, join the Official Observers on 75 meters tuning in Bubba and the Potty Mouths unwittingly making the case AGAINST White Supremacy. If you're a Real Ham who needs redemption, or just Ole Time Religion, try the Lids For Jesus Net on 20 meters ("Now put your hands on the Radio and Feel The Power Of The Lord!" —I'm Orthodox Druid, so I think it must be RF in my shack). Hear "codes" blast "no-codes" and vice-versa. Read the Old Ham Fart Columns and Letters to Editors as the Old Tops who answered Marconi's first CQ get loose bowels over FCC proposals. Watch the ARRL stumble into the 21st Century like a twisted "Father Knows Best" episode where benevolent White Guys-In Charge try to be All Things For All Hams. Listen to repeaters when 911 Emergency Wannabes can't fully pop the machine for their precious ARES/RACES/SKYWARN/Y2K/ALIEN ALERT nets because no one told 'em 2 watt HT's without external antennas don't make the trip from Mommy's basement. Which brings me to a frightening conclusion, consistent with the following HRT: the only normal people in this weird hobby only work CW (see me twitch at the next FISTS Twelve Step meeting when I own up to plugging in a mike to work a special event station; hey, it was ONLY ONE, and a short one at that—and he really was 59!). OK, I agree, after all, I homebrew QRP rigs so maybe "normal" is a stretch; how about generally really decent operators? I don't think this wonderful publication needs yet another chest-thumping "Greatest Hams Ever Told" story or a misty-eyed "Glorious Code, I Live For Thee" tribute. Truth be known, there probably aren't a whole bunch of us who need to run to the mailbox in daily anticipation of an A-1 Op Award. Second Truth be known: we're dinosaurs, and this goofy little pastime of ours really doesn't mean much to anyone outside of us and those who sell us goodies. WHAT?! Well, flog me. Oh, sure, on a slow news night we'll see some state's Governor we never heard of reading off a prepared sound bite about Those Won-

derful Hams and present a plaque to some poor slob who worked a disaster net for 92 straight hours only to have The Guy mispronounce his name. We may even get a half-minute of Ham In Space stuff from CNN. I'll bet we'll even continue our "cutting edge" tradition and be the first with a SE7H contact— in fact, I think I've worked a few aliens already on 15, but that's another story, and they may have been French. Face it: for the most part, except when we're a source of RFI (wearing my Volunteer Counsel hat: too often due to poor amateur practice), we don't exist in the Real World. Why? After going to a club's really well-done Field Day site in a public park, with virtually no publicity or interaction with the non-ham public, I don't ask that question. And, if it's not enough to be invisible, let's break out into our little clubs and niches and try to rip each apart. From this newcomer's perspective, the state of Our Calling is reduced to a stick-on Calvin (of Calvin and Hobbes cartoon series) decal sold at hamshows: the buyer can choose "Code", "No Code", "ARRL" or "FCC" as the target of Calvin's urine stream. No doubt resourceful hams will "roll their own" targets. Now it's time for a pop quiz: what's the lesson here, OM?

I don't have an answer, I'm not even sure which questions to ask. I know what worked for me: my Elmer and a few bands worth of really fine FISTS and CW ops who were "on the air" Elmers. And it's not just CW; I control-op'd a technician on 20 meter voice one night, to give him a taste of HF/IDX, and he was beaming as he not only made a QSO but had a virtual pile-up of stations wishing him well and encouraging him to upgrade. The most important lesson learned from Larry is to give something back to our community (speaking from experience, taking your Elmer fishing doesn't count!), each of us has something to offer and share. I don't have the experience to be much of an Elmer, so I'm a Volunteer Examiner and Volunteer Counsel. With enough Elmers, I'll do a lot more of the former and less of the latter. So, 73, and if I've gored your Sacred Cow or offended your sensibilities, so be it; this hobby takes itself too damn seriously, anyway! Interfere with my signal and don't answer my CQ; I will then relearn a lesson and follow The Ultimate Truth: go fishing! Copyright, 1998, by Charles A. Parmenter, all rights reserved.

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COMMENTS OF Alan J. Wormser, N5LF

I file these comments on August 17, 1998, regarding the FCC's proposed Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules, WT Docket 98-143. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my comments in this matter. In summary, I have five concerns: 1. To increase technical proficiency and operating skills, and encourage upgrading; 2. To encourage use of digital modes over less-challenging modes such as SSB and FM; 3. To reserve HF voice modes and power output privileges as incentives to upgrade; 4. To reform the testing procedures; and 5. To reverse the 11-year trend to "dumb down" the license exams.

MY COMMENTS CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: A. License Classes (Docket para. 12)

I agree that there should be 4 license classes. However, I believe a more workable scheme would combine the Novice, Tech Plus and pre-1987 Techs into a new Intermediate Class, and grandfather the Generals to the Advanced Class. Any licensees grandfathered to a higher class should be required to take the additional exam elements before renewal. Below, I

outline a scheme that retains the current tests, but enhances privileges in a manner that encourages upgrading and the use of digital modes. Specifically, I propose 4 classes as follows (parentheses indicate equivalent current license, **boldface** indicates changes from current privileges):

1. Technician Class (Current No-Code Technicians) a. Technician written exam. b. Privileges: Same as current No-Code Technician VHF privileges c. Power limit: **50 watts output**
2. Intermediate Class (Pre-1987 Tech, Tech Plus, Novice) adds 80 meter voice for traffic handling a. Written **General Class** exam and 5 wpm Morse exam b. HF digital and CW privileges: **Same as Advanced Class** c. HF SSB privileges: 28,300-28,500 kHz, and **3850-4000 kHz** (traffic handling) d. Power limit: **200 watts output** e. Pre-1987 Technicians grandfathered automatically, but **Tech Plus and Novices must take the missing written element(s) before renewal**
3. Advanced Class (Adv Class and grandfathered Generals) a. Written Advanced Class exam and 13 wpm Morse Code exam b. Privileges (mode, bands, and power): Same as current Advanced Class c. **Generals must take the missing written element before renewal**
4. Extra Class (Extra Class) a. Written Extra Class exam and 20 wpm Morse Code exam b. Privileges (modes, bands, power): Same as current Extra Class
5. **Grandfathering** (would only apply to current Novice, Tech Plus, and General Classes) a. During a 2-year grace period after the new regulations take effect renewals will not require additional testing b. After the 2-year grace period, those who do not pass the additional exams will be reclassified upon renewal as follows: grandfathered Novices and Tech Pluses to Technician Class, and grandfathered Generals to Intermediate Class.
6. **Discussion:** The outline I propose is similar to the ARRL's July 1998 proposal, but has several elements that should enhance technical skills. As with both the ARRL proposal and the NPRM, higher power levels and voice operating modes are used as motivation for licensees to enhance their skills. a. For Intermediate Class (pre-1987 Technician, and grandfathered Novices and Tech Plus), adding the upper 150 kHz of 80 meters to their voice privileges allows them to get on-the-air training in emergency service nets and long-range traffic handling. In addition, it allows them to explore propagation and antenna designs that they might not encounter on 10 meters. b. By giving Intermediate Class all of the CW and digital privileges of the Advanced Class (but at 200 watts), they can enhance their skills in the modes that represent, respectively, the most basic and the most modern, computer-oriented modes. This will also encourage building equipment and experimentation. c. For Technicians and Tech Pluses, voice privileges have proven to be a **severe distraction to upgrading and acquiring additional skills**. As noted in the WT Docket 98-143, paragraph 13, Technicians and Tech Pluses overutilize FM voice modes to the exclusion of other modes and technologies. Packet activity among Technicians and Tech Pluses has been in **decline** for the past five years. d. Technician and Intermediate licenses should be for learning, upgrading skills, and experimentation. They should be stepping-stones, not terminal licenses: Our goal should be to have a core of operators who have mastered the skills required of at least the Advanced Class license. e. My proposed 2-year grace period for renewal without additional testing will give each affected licensee a 2 to 12 year period of enhanced operating privileges. In a decade's time most of these individuals would have upgraded anyway, so the effect on them is nominal and we will have increased skill levels across the

board.

B. Comment on the notion that digital modes are "replacing" CW (Docket para. 12)

1. While it is true overall that digital modes are on the rise and CW is in decline, the Docket incorrectly states that digital modes are "replacing" CW on military and commercial frequencies. **CW is a backup for voice, not digital modes.** Digital modes serve new roles in modern communications involving unattended bulletin boards, automated forwarding, bulk messages, and data transmission — tasks for which CW and voice were never used.

2. On the other hand, CW and voice modes are more efficient for low-volume traffic, "live" message turnaround times, and critical emergency operations. As an adjunct to HF voice, CW is irreplaceable during auroral disturbances, solar blackouts, under low power (or to conserve batteries), or where interference and noise are a problem. CW transmissions are also more secure than voice since few non-amateurs can decode them. As an experienced traffic handler, I often have used a combination of SSB and CW to get a message through.

3. The commercial and military sectors must conserve limited resources by focusing training and equipment dollars on only a few transmission modes. For them, any backup for voice communications (such as CW) must take a lower priority than the advanced digital modes and global positioning systems that compete for the same dollars.

4. In contrast, the Amateur Service is not limited by the same resource constraints. Using volunteer labor, personal equipment, and peer-training, the Amateur Service thrives on the very redundancy that would "break the budget" of a military or commercial entity. Therefore, in the Amateur Service, CW continues to be used day-to-day as a practical and inexpensive supplement to HF voice communications.

C. Deleting the Novice Bands (Docket para. 12)

I concur with the deletion, but with the stipulation that the Novice bands should be released for digital and CW modes, not voice/image modes.

D. How the Novice bands should be distributed (Docket para. 12) The lower Novice portions of 80, 40, 15, and Novice CW subband on 10 meters should be released to digital and CW modes. The 10 meter Novice phone subband should remain as it is for voice/image/CW modes.

E. Should Novices be allowed to use all CW bands on 80, 40, 15, and 10 at 200 watts? Yes and, as **Intermediate Class** licensees, so should Tech Plus and pre-1987 Technicians

F. Upgrading of Tech Plus and Technician (Docket para. 13). If grandfathered, they should take the additional exam elements before renewal.

G. Allow Gen/Adv VE's to test applicants of lower license class (Docket para. 14) I concur completely. Good proposal.

H. Eliminating RACES (Docket para. 16)

1. I concur that RACES should be eliminated. RACES rules should be replaced with guidelines or regulations codifying procedures for Amateur Service emergency organizations to achieve official FCC sanction for their emergency activities. For example, through developing Memoranda of Agreement among the Amateur Service emergency organization its served agencies. 2. If RACES is not eliminated, please delete the restrictions on the number of hours per year that are allowed for emergency drills by RACES stations.

J. Should the FCC Privatize Enforcement? (Docket para. 17)

Recent cutbacks have forced the closing of many field monitoring stations, and the Amateur Service is willing to as-

sist the FCC to fill this void. But Amateur Radio operators can only gather evidence and assist as expert witnesses. To get the FCC to enforce its own regulations, Amateurs should not be required to accept the liability and personal risks that are within the province of FCC investigators and Federal marshals. I sympathize with the FCC's manpower problems, but legal matters **must remain the duty of the federal enforcement agency** — not Amateurs.

K. How many levels of CW exam? (Docket para. 24)

1. I favor three levels: 5, 13, and 20 wpm. I am willing to accept a 12 wpm exam instead of 13 wpm to be in line with the Europeans under CEPT.

2. In no case should there be less than a 12 wpm requirement for the current General Class HF privileges. While the 5 wpm exam allows a beginner to get on the air to improve their skills, only at about 12-13 wpm does the operator become competent enough at CW to handle an emergency or to accurately relay messages.

L. Type of CW exam (Docket para. 24)

1. I favor a test of 1 minute solid copy out of 5 minutes. In emergency situations or when passing traffic an operator must copy a sequence of letters and figures correctly to relay that information to the proper authorities. An exam of 1 minute solid copy is a better test of this skill. 2. Only use multiple choice or fill-in blanks on accommodated exams for persons with disabilities. It is too easy for a bright person to guess at 7 of 10 multiple choice questions.

M. CW Exam Waivers (Docket para. 25)

1. **Eliminate the current waiver system.** The array of accommodations that VE's may already choose from are more than adequate to address the needs of disabled examinees. There are many skilled operators in the Amateur Service who are blind, deaf, severely arthritic, quadriplegic, or suffer other severe multiple handicaps who nevertheless were able to demonstrate their abilities to a VE. 2. In the rare situation where no fair accommodation seems appropriate, the FCC field office should make the determination following explicit guidelines and after discussion with the attending physician. The FCC would then issue a waiver certificate, and a candidate who presented an FCC waiver certificate to the VE would not need to explain further — thus preserving their right to privacy.

3. Lagree with the ARRL that the candidates for a CW exam waiver should attempt an accommodated test before being allowed a waiver, but where is their motivation to pass? I recommend a rule that the candidate who fails the accommodated test, and wants a waiver, must then appeal to the FCC for a ruling and waiver certificate.

4. A physician can only provide expert information to the FCC regarding the patient's medical condition. As a volunteer, a VE does not have the authority (or skill) to judge the merits of a physician's medical waiver. Therefore, as the regulator, the FCC represents the best combination of technical expertise, confidentiality, and legal authority to decide waiver requests.

N. Provide VE's w/ flexible question content? (Docket para. 26)

1. Yes! The exact wording of the question pools should not be public information. The exact texts of the correct answer and distracters should not be public information. Memorization is too easy. 2. The VE's should be allowed to choose from among many distracters for each question in the pool, and to arrange them in any order. The VE Coordinators can provide sufficient check-and-balance to ensure fair (non-ambiguous) versions of each question on the exam.

O. Re-taking a failed element at the same VE session.

1. There is a common practice for examinees who fail a written or Morse code element to re-take another version of the same exam by simply paying a second fee. 2. I recommend a rule that examinees can only fail one written and one Morse code element per VE session.

P. Are the Categories of the Questions Adequate? (Docket para. 27) Overall, the current question categories are adequate. I would suggest adding more questions on identifying circuit schematics (especially oscillators, buffers, amplifiers, and active and passive filters) and circuit elements (e.g., voltage dividers, diode crowbar circuits, and the input/output impedance and effect of loads between stages of a circuit), on using specific types of test equipment, and on digital data compression and TCP/IP. I would also suggest some of these topics be introduced earlier in the testing series — in the Technician and General exams I hope these comments prove helpful. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the restructuring proposal. Sincerely, Alan J. Wormser

Thoughts of Dave, KC2AFK #3922

I have just read "License Restructuring for the Future" in the September 1998 QST and feel compelled to respond. For background, I am a tech plus (first license) and have been on the air since August 8, 1997.

Let us take as a given that restructuring is necessary, even though no cogent argument in its favor is offered. I suppose a simplified and more logical license structure may attract new hams; the unstated, but implied, true purpose of restructuring. My concern is with the proposed "refarming" of the novice bands.

The argument for "refarming" is based on three assertions; the novice bands are under utilized, the operators who are there are escaping the crowded conditions on the other bands, and moving novices to the general/advanced bands will give them more contacts and improve CW acceptance by them. Lets examine them in turn.

Under utilization. This is not my experience. In the year and two weeks I have been using them the bands in question (80, 40, and 15) have yielded over 900 non-contest QSOs. I have completed WAS without using one contest QSO. When I scan the bands I find that utilization is about the same for the novice and non-novice bands. When a band is empty it because propagation is poor or a longer band is open. When a band is busy all sub-bands are busy. But lets assume the statement is true. What rational extra (or advanced or general) is going to stay down at the bottom of a packed 40m band when, for the mere twist of the tuning knob, there is 50 kHz of prime spectrum begging to be used in novice 40m in the late afternoon or evening?

Novice band OPs are higher class licenses fleeing crowded sub-bands. This may be the case. I must admit that when I bothered to check about 60 - 70% of my contacts were with general class and up licenses. However, I fail to see how removing 125 kHz of CW bandwidth is going to relieve over crowding on the remaining CW sub-bands.

More contacts for novices. This one is a bit touchy, but here goes. Let me start by saying that novice sub-bands are areas to which novices are restricted. They are not novice only areas. I can only assume that since all amateurs are permitted to operate in the novice bands there is some reason why some chose not to. I have no reason to believe that by making novices

generals we will magically become more desirable to talk to.

Restructuring, go ahead and do it. I doubt it can hurt much and may even help. "Refarming", I don't like it at all. It looks to me like a thinly disguised grab for phone bandwidth. David Ruth, KC2AFK,

From Helen NS2G to her Division Director
As a fellow member of YLRL I know you will give thoughtful consideration to the proposal before the ARRL which would give parts of the bands presently devoted to CW to SSB operators and would lower licensing requirements to 5 wpm for general and 12 for extra class operators, a proposal I oppose for the following reasons:

I feel very strongly that the amateur operators, both in this country and abroad, are the backbone of our hobby. They have a special investment in ham radio that no coders do not because of their commitment to the hard work and discipline necessary to learn Morse Code. Morse operators are thoughtful (Morse is slow); they measure their words, which cannot be said for some of our less disciplined hams on SSB.

But for me, Morse means Radio. With it I have the power to talk to anyone, anywhere. I can communicate with hundreds of thousands of folks in countries all over the globe—with people of different colors, rich and poor, educated or not. We meet without the prejudices of accent or gender. They can be my friends because we speak the same language.

Others, I know, will make other arguments, but these are mine. Please consider carefully before downgrading Morse Code and shaving the CW bands. Respectfully yours, Helen Landry, NS2G

Open letter from the GACW (CW Argentine Group) to the National Authorities, ruling class, Argentina

For several years have been a controversy, about the knowledge exigency of the Morse Code, in order to get a radio-amateur license with privileges to operate in the S.W.(HF), at the present it has create a lot of opinions and critics, which are very controversial in the international ambit and this is why we want to point out and to clear our position with this Opened letter. We understand a great part of the reasoning, developed in some international media with the aim to derogate the CW exigencies, due to there is another emission methods and technical advances, as a product of the digital evolution in the Communications, which in due course could become also an examination subject. In fact, developed countries like Canada?, Germany? could have an admission examination without CW, and in the other hand their technical examinations and rules are very hard and selective. But, apart from that, we are wondering, which exigency is going to replace the capacity to operate an Emergency CW Station?, ...writing in a keyboard?, ...touching a clarifier?, ...or speaking in front of a microphone?

If in another countries like England it has been decided the same action course and in some part of North America are doing the same, given arguments like the society development and its control systems, ...like the high age on the average, (lead to an illusory saying it is almost 50 years),... saying the telegraphy is killing the hobby, ...saying the telegraphy it is not up dated, ...saying there is no people going to the fairs and they blame to the CW examinations, etc., it is possible that some sectors are going to react in the same way and over all in places where the organizations has leaders without evidence of technical and personal capacity but yes they have a lot of discriminatory acts against every minority with a microphone not included.

To understand perfectly the basic differences of our posi-

tion, we need to clear to all who are ignoring, our activities has its origin in the Telecommunications International Union and its definitions as an Amateur Service and in this way, setting aside the most current tentative to change its name to adapt it to reality which emerge from the homogenization, it is not correct to name it like a hobby, apart from that a lot of people use it and think in consequence.

The majorities, several times manipulated by spurious interest, use to adopt wrong resolutions but adjusted to their reality and convenience. Actions like this could lead us far from the definition of the GACW (CW Argentine Group) about the real spirit of the radioamateur. A behavior adjusted to principles and rights, which hardly the majorities could approve, because it is easier a wide way than to follow the right steps, little by little, to obtain the place we deserve in connection with our capacities and knowledge, where who is doing an 6V6 by 6V6 with a crystal oscillator himself and manipulating a cathode or modulating in screen connected to a LW, or those others who experiment demodulating waves of TVBL (SSTV) or with QRP equipment, has the same areas and rights than others with a lot of kilowatts and sophistication.

With all our respect, the CQ Magazine of USA, Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, the W5YI organization and others who can push and to reclaim more activity, don't blame to the radioamateur, and if some of these organizations disappear some day, nothing is going to happened to us, we are going on working in our bands sharpening our intelligence in order to keep in the air whatever mode we choose and their disappearance will affect very little to the activity, and at least, much less than is would affect the disappearance of the operative genuine exigencies like a Morse examination.

The GACW support that the huge technologic development of the telecommunications, and the technology of the information is approaching the humankind each day, cellular telephones, satellital telephones, the Iridium Network, the TV right to home, the Internet network and others are filling empty places which were covered by the radio and convoke much more to young people due to its attractiveness. So, if they are preoccupied due to diminution of their incomes, the Institutions all over the world should play their real role, dedicating and promoting new activities in schools, printing books and bullets, preparing courses in videocassettes and in audio-cassettes, and not following process like the Morse elimination in the examinations, which are far from being clear at all.

GACW applauds and points like an example the action started by a not diffusing Argentine Group of High Speed, integrated by enterprising argentine amateurs who are not in agreement with the sole microphone, who put in functioning its opened connection between the radio and the Internet Network which let the interchange of messages between our bands and the e.mail box of the whole world and between the local radioamateur group from the A.Brown and L. de Zamora Council Towns. Who are very interested in the lunar rebound TLT (EME), obtaining excellent intercontinental QSOs with old fashioned elements, or the amateurs members of the organizations who are searching for alien intelligence by hearing determined hands. These small group of amateurs with a technical and professional attitude, with very little institutional connections, are pointed us the changes using the knowledge and not those are simplifying, eliminating and destroying everything they are not in a position to understand because they don't know or they don't understand. For the same things, it was 21 years

ago, the former discriminatory attitude in the clubs obligated us to create the GACW.

We know very well that our ambit is doing a great deal with the functioning delegations in the clubs and with the CW examination and we want to point out this situation and to cover the name of the leaders and institutions interested in share, improve and participate of the development. We are over 440 adherent members, some neighbor have understood us, and from Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil and also a person from Kuwait have joined to the legions of Mr. Samuel and we are eager to continue in this way of integration and mainly nobody discriminate us only because our loneliness and because we don't use microphones very often and we don't go very often to clubs either except to retire our cards.

The GACW don't present a systematic opposition and without reasons against those leaders who are looking forward to eliminate the CW examination, we are concerned only about some of them, specially the most relevant in the National ambit, in case they don't adopted an equilibrated and equidistant from the extremes, it will enough for us if each of them were capable to define orally the Ohm' law and demonstrate graphically its verification, were capable of demonstrate his satellite operative capacity, to make some fitting soldering in a UHF equip or perhaps he take part of the armed and solder of a DB25 connector, between so many things that an amateur should be in condition before to arrive to a transcendent leading charge, in order to be sure, at least, although they don't share our thoughts, they will have a technical base of knowledge, due to the rules are easier to obtain, what let him to rule the destines of our National associations with equity.

To conclude, in synthesis, you can do whatever you want, go on destroying, extending the BC, eliminating, massing, go on forgetting that the only aims of our existence is the experimentation, but make you responsible of this, so the history can point you and everybody know that the telegrapher go on being for several years more, much more than the National and international fraudulent people who are temporally inside our Amateur Services. Alberto U. SILVA, LU1DZ - Raúl M. DIAZ, LU6EF - Jorge F. Vrsalovich, LU7XP.

Thoughts from Art KB9OVS

Hello Nancy: I heard you tonight on ARRL newsline and thought I'd drop you a note on my perspective.

I am FISTS member 4065. I am currently a tech-plus studying for licensing as a General class licensee. The toughest part for me has been trying to reach 13 wpm code proficiency.

I wanted you to know two things, first, I do NOT consider it a burden to the amateur service to require code proficiency of 13 wpm and 20 wpm. I have enjoyed listening to others on the radio and to Gordon West on his tapes to build my speed. Second, I believe that code will be with us a long time because I have been able to work stations through heavy QRM using CW that I could not have worked by phone. Lastly, I find the people on the CW bands far more polite and well mannered than what I usually hear on phone.

Organizations like FISTS can do a great deal to preserve the CW bands and keep this part of the amateur service alive and vital. Kind regards, Art Paton KB9OVS FISTS #4065

DX PORTION OF THE KEYNOTE

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NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058

Tues: G0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)

Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058

Thurs: QRS 1900 (loc) on 3575. 2E0AJS
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins

Pse keep watch all Novice allocations

UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

GREETINGS

Hi Folks. Wow! What a response to my request for copies of the FL2 destructions. G0LZW, G4LHI, G0FVS and G4GSA sent copies unbidden and a number of members rang first. I should be ashamed of myself. Such organised chaos that exists here meant that hunting down the paperwork was akin to trying to find a piece of lint in a spinning mill. I needed an old mag (never did find it) so ventured below ground where piles of them were stacked in the cellar. First opened a drawer out of curiosity and there staring up at me was the FL2 owners instructions. What I find rather interesting is that G4GSA has the FL3 which, aside from a couple of pages of text from a laser

printer, is accompanied by the same instructions sheet as the FL2. However, the circuit diagrams have been omitted and someone has even gone to the trouble of scratching the identifying marks from the lcs. This makes me curious. Without knowing the nature of the components, it is going to be extremely difficult to service the item so Datong puts themselves in the unique position of being virtually the only source for repair etc. I would not suggest that removing the ID on components is illegal but it seems to be taking propriety a little far?

I am even more indebted to G3VD (John) who had a copy of Amateur Radio Techniques which was, as he put it, 'looking for a good home'. In addition to this, there were other callers who kindly offered the volume but being 'feleton' conversations and (as usual being strapped for a pen) I neglected to note. Thanks to all.

There were no less than 5 modifications to the logging programme within two days. The first one was to take into account existing users and combines the 5 separate data files into one following which the old files are deleted. Then I discovered that I had called the memory file after the programme had asked which band the operator would be using. This meant that it defaulted to the last band in-use. An annoying empty red field was removed and to save space on the disc, two files are now constructed from scratch by the programme. An existing function which compiled a list of contacts from the start of the log for a given station was included on the face page. It still performs well enough and considering that it has not been assembled from an OOP (Object Oriented Programming) compiler and provided you do not intend to write a M16 type dossier on your contacts, serves its purpose well.

40m was a bit 'iffy' with G stations raising the S-bar to little more than 7 at the best when suddenly it went up to 20dB over 9 for a friend in the Shetlands who reported running a scratch 2-ele yagi for that band. 'It's only up at 35 feet Geo but as soon as the weather improves it will be going up to 90 feet'. He was also talking of laying a terminated Rhombic firing East of

West for VK. Oh how I envy these people with seemingly unlimited antenna space. Hi.

As I write this, Bob, G0FRL is expect back from his trip with the paraplegic bowls team but as usual I made a cock up because it was ZS and not VK that he went to. He is gonna find a goodly bit of work waiting with lots of new members and (I expect) claims for Century awards to say nothing of oodles of QSL cards. It is not unknown for the Post Office to deliver these in mail bags. Glad to have you back in Blighty mate. now get crackin!

THE NEC FORUM

Being unable to attend myself, I am grateful to G3TZM for a print out of questions and statements. The timing was superb.. a Friday afternoon and the first day of many people's summer holiday. The organisation was somewhat 'loose'. A general lack of information right at the start meant that people were milling around outside the conference room seeking to have their invitations over-stamped but by whom and where? Once inside, there were problems with the audio causing many to complain of being unable to hear and the four roving radio microphones were so slow that many were resorting to shouting rather than wait for one so much so that the Chairman, Martin Cain, resorted to handing his hand held mic to those within reach of the 'top table' to speed things up.

Mr. Cain opened a little after 1300 by stating "we are here to listen to views" but a note of urgency was induced with the information that the meeting would wind up spot on the dot of 1500.

On Morse, he said that he does not propose to address it here but only wants views. He brought up the World Radio Conference in 2003 at which will be discussed the discontinuation of the Morse test. There is much to be considered. RA are currently in discussion with RSGB but no firm decision has yet been reached. He added that Amateur Radio is an international matter. They are considering the New Zealand proposal. He mentioned TR6101/6102 and 12wpm and finished by saying that he looked forward to a healthy debate.

The following views were expressed though I do not intend to tabulate the speakers:

Class B access to the HF bands should be limited to dedicated and not shared bands. What are the RA doing about suspected deliberate QRM from RTTY and others on shared bands? No plans to change status.

"Youngsters are put off by Morse". Parried by a speaker who is aware of a full licence being obtained by a 12 year old and has seen 10 year olds taking out full licences. Hopes that Morse is not seen as a deterrent. "All this discussion about Morse but what is to replace it?"

"I don't think the RSGB represents Amateur Radio". Much applause to this and Mr Cain said that he does not want this event to be knocking the RSGB and encouraged attendees to get behind the RSGB with their comments.

There was the inevitable "tried Morse but can't get it" and a visually impaired speaker (who really should have been using Morse as a tool) said the mode was obsolete whilst one speaker pointed out that much use was made of Morse and Amateur Radio operators during WW2. don't abandon Morse (here again much applause).

"My husband is a class B licensee and I leave all the technical stuff to him" at least brought some laughter to the occasion.

One speaker thought it unfair that Novices were not allowed on the 2m band, similarly class B operators on the HF bands. Thinks it's time for Morse to go but that there should be an exclusive CW slot (that's a revelation. I thought there was one!)

Think we should go for incentive licensing as in the US. Those who want to can then rise whilst those who do not just stay put.

An alternative to the CW test would be a practical construction test or Morse for those who have had their licence of over 8 years.

The discussion was summed up on behalf of the Society by Don Beattie who commented that the Society is committed to keeping CW sub-bands. He asked if the talk of controlling access to HF is necessary and should there be something else? There are practical

tests within the novice licence. There is no short term intent to remove CW. The RA are governed by international regulations. The RSGB want to see more youngsters in the hobby. There is a need to improve standards and self-training by incentive.

One rather wonders whether such a final statement would have been issued at all had it not been for the furore which caused the forum to be called in the first place.

I am intrigued by the prospect of a 'practical' test. Will we then see entrance exams being conducted on a permanent basis in order to allocate time for the candidate to construct a wobulator or gas driven crystal set having been given a soldering iron and access to a stock of parts?

Left to their own devices, I rather suspect the RSGB would have happily gone about the business of handing over the current CW segments to the irresponsible section of the hobby who are currently endeavouring to claim exclusive rights to certain spot frequencies by tying them up permanently with unmanned data modes. Will 2003 see the band plans ENFORCED or will our representatives of the hobby consider this too high a mountain to climb? We must wait and see.

G3AFV

Although it was largely my own fault, there was a sense of disappointment, possibly even guilt that I had failed to learn more about the circumstances relating to the death of Ted, G3AFV. I was therefore pleased to receive an e-mail from the Rev. David, G0VVZ with an up-date.

"Geo - I was pleased to see that you mentioned Ted in Key Note. I had the privilege of taking his funeral service on 1st July, and also at the service were Fists member, Tony G0PEH and Mike G4VEC. Mike and Tony had regular QSO's with Ted and had been in contact with him shortly before his death. Although I had never met Ted I recall a good long QSO with him about two years ago on 20m, when he called me at the end of a QSO I had with a Russian station. As a fairly new G0 it was good to be called by an old timer, prepared to put up with my CW!

Ted was not married, so I am not sure who contacted you or whose phone number you tried to call therefore. He was known as a bit of a recluse, but this did not mean he was unfriendly by any means; radio was his life, and in particular CW, and through this he had a wide circle of friends. He was a much loved and respected radio amateur who had served in the RAF during the war as a radio operator. He enjoyed construction and if he needed something he would make it!

Ted died at home on the 21st June; almost certainly his passing was swift and without pain and I am sure his wish to enjoy his life to the end was granted. Ted would certainly not have enjoyed the prospect of a long illness, or being an invalid. He was 83 years of age. He had two sisters, one of whom lives in my parish and the other in Sheerness.

I hope this gives you some of the information you wanted, and I am happy for you to make use of what I have written. Certainly E mail me if you have any questions, or contact Tony or Mike who will almost certainly be able to tell you a lot more about Ted".
73 David, G0VVZ

FISTS CLUB TRIO

(Nancy's note: This is old news to the USA contingent, but remember, the DXers read this in September) Three FISTS affiliated clubs, three states, three 3-letter suffixes, and 3 points for working each station! What does that add up to? The first annual West Coast Triple !! FISTS Northwest, K7FFF (nr 4400), the Vista Valley FISTS CW Club, K6FFF (nr 4444), and the Cowlitz FISTS Club, WA7YYY (nr 1900), are teaming up for this special event on September 19th, 1998. Many members from all three clubs will be on the air on 6 band segments looking for participation from all FISTS members to make this event a rousing success. So, put away those licensing proposal blues and warm up the rigs, paddles and keys for the first annual WCT!

AWARDS

Elmer Awards recently issued to M0AXJ on behalf of M0BUS and to AE4IC and W4FI on behalf of KF4EIB. Also (within the last couple of days) G3QEP from G5WW. to press there are 31 of 'em in exist-

ence. A bit sparse perhaps but possibly as well appreciated as a Diamond or Platinum. Diamond and Platinum both in one application from Esther, KA4IFF and Gold to NB2T and W3ERU.

THE NATTER

From G3ZDD, a copy of the Guildford ARS news letter 'NATTER' found its way onto my door mat and a mighty nice publication it is too. They favour three columns as opposed to my two but it is well laid out and full of the interesting little snippets which I try to include in Keynote. One of these is headed 'UNWELCOME VISITOR' and continues:

"Visitors to his shack are usually quite welcome he says. But this one tried to eat him out of house and home and even mucked up his SWR. In the end he had to call the council to chuck him out, says Derek, G3ZDD who admitted it was all enough to drive him stark raving normal before MOUSE decided to leave. And not before time it seems. His coax was stripped naked to the core and his bank balance full of holes buying replacement cable".

I know that a thirsty rodent has been known to gnaw through water pipes and, I understand, there is an odd genus of cockroach which thrives inside television receivers where it waxes fat on wire insulation so what I wonder is so special about the inner of a coax that causes this particular pest to strip the outer for it? Derek must be using the wrong flavour or perhaps the mouse just gets a 'high' from raw RF!

THE BOUNCY MODE

Dear Geo, Here is the story of EME QSO made by EL2DT:

Liberia is a small west African country with a population of about 2.000.000. Main resources are rubber, iron ore and timber.

Seven years of wars and troubles left the country bankrupt. Conflicts ended one year ago when President Taylor was democratically elected.

The capital city, Monrovia, has been devastated: ruins everywhere, roads in terrible state, no more public water/electricity distribution. Unemployment is sky high and salaries are extremely low. Liberian people are courageously rebuilding the country, but they have a very long road to travel...

After a few business trips in Monrovia, I applied for a license and got the EL2VG call in April 98. Before my last trip, I enclosed 4 Tonna 11 el. yagis and some RG213 coax in a shipment of electronic equipment to a customer in Monrovia. Then, I put in my luggage a small HF transceiver, a 28/144 transverter, a brick amplifier, a wattmeter and some bits of cable and connectors.

During my stay there, I found a battery and a charger and put up a 14-MC dipole. I enjoyed beautiful pile-ups and realised that Liberia was needed by many hams.

My first contact with Liberian ham radio community was with Father Joe Brown, EL2FM, director of Don Bosco Institute. He then introduced me to Peter Brenner, EL2CY, president of the Liberian Radio Amateur Association. Most of the hams left Liberia for safer heavens. All equipment disappeared during the conflicts and the few remaining hams operate from the radio club of Don Bosco Politecnico Institute, EL2RL.

They have there an old rusty TS520, a straight key and dipoles. Power supply comes from Don Bosco's generator which is on during class hours. Outside these hours, they use a car battery.

None has ham gear at home, and actual salaries do not allow them to buy even a coaxial feed line! Nowadays, it is difficult to be a ham radio in Liberia...

When I told EL2CY and EL2FM that I had brought along some 2 m. equipment, and that it would be maybe possible to make QSOs by bouncing the waves on the moon, they first looked at me as if I was myself coming directly from the moon but they felt that, in case of success, an EME QSO would bring some new well needed optimism among existing Liberian hams and attract new people to the hobby.

Time was running fast and I still had a lot to do before going back to Spain. A small group of young enthusiastic hams was immediately formed: EL2AB, EL2DT, EL2JH and EL2JZ. Mr Clinton, teacher of metal works at Don Bosco (and future ham), quickly built with his students an "H" structure with manual az/el control.

I was keeping in touch with Jorge EA2LU who kindly offered to contact the "big guns" in case we would be ready on time.

By Thursday 14th, we had the 4 antennas installed on the "H", phasing lines made of RG213, the brick amplifier installed at feed point, fed by a car battery just below the antennas, 15 m. of RG213 to the shack, and transverter/transceiver installed in the shack. Measured power at feed was 115 Watt with a fully charged battery. On Friday 15th, we installed a 20 m. dipole, hoping to contact the big guns on Saturday's VHF net.

On Saturday 16th, we heard nothing on 14.345, and nobody answered our desperate calls. We were hoping that EA2LU had had more luck than us. Then I began to feel depressed: nobody was going to be there, and if they were present, who would hear our QRP signal? I was sure it was going to be a big failure! At night, when the moon appeared, the guys began to call CQ on 144.025 by turns. No answer. Then the sky got cloudy and the tropical rain started. We lost the moon. We could see it from time to time, during a few seconds. We would then point the antennas and call CQ, with less and less hope to realise our dream. Finally, we all fell asleep...

A little before 06.00, the rain stopped, and the sudden absence of noise woke us up. The moon was now visible! We quickly aimed the antennas and Dickson, EL2DT, rushed to the shack and started calling CQ. And then, music to our ears, we heard an unbelievably loud "RQ", then "8RQ", and then "KB8RQ". EL2DT was smiling hear to hear, holding that big straight key in one hand and punching with the other one. Gary, you had a BIG signal! When 73's were exchanged, some of us could not refrain their tears... Then we heard another station calling us, but rain started again and we could not make the QSO.

I am now back in Spain. The antennas, the power splitter, the "H" and the cables are stored in a dry place at Don Bosco. I do not know yet when I will see again my friends again, but I hope it will be soon (maybe end of July).

Would be fantastic if some of you could help these nice guys with used HF/VHF equipment that you do not need anymore. Transport could be arranged through Don Bosco, which is exempt of import duties.

The dream would be to get a good 2 m. amplifier, coax relay and preamp for the next EME operation... 73 to all, especially to Gary!

Eric EA5GIY / EL2VO / ON5TA

THE PACKET RACKET

I have an interesting letter from Alan M0AXJ who puts his colour inkjet to good purpose with a FISTS logo on the envelope. He mentions that although he is not yet on e-mail, he has recently kitted himself up with PACKET and is surprised at the absence of FISTS. I fear that I have become so disillusioned with the local service that I no longer subscribe. Getting messages through had become progressively more difficult as the system strove to cope with (usually non subscribing) stations downloading megabytes of sheer horse droppings.

If any member having e-mail facilities and perhaps better access than myself would care to take up the reins, then I would be happy to include him or her on the up-date list for new members etc., and ask Nancy and Ralph (ZL2AOH) to do the same.

In a similar vein, we do have a number of web-sites available but I would dearly love to put HQ on the web. However I lack knowledge of the necessary procedure to do this and am getting a little too long in the teeth (apart from being too QRL) to embark upon a learning session so if some kind member who is more web aware than myself would like to undertake the necessary procedures, I would be most obliged. Ideally, the current listing should be available on a page by page basis together with up-to-date news and links to other FISTS oriented sites. The idea of a Keynote on the web has been suggested often so perhaps this would also be possible?

INSURMOUNTABLE PLATEAU?

The RA's Mrs. Carter (pp Mrs. Scott) replied to an enquiry from G4VLW concerning the Morse requirement for HF access. "We understand that there is a natural learning plateau at 8 words per minute and we have therefore asked the RSGB to consider this option".

Now, therein lies a mystery. Who is the 'expert' who advised the RA of this critical value? Enough of our members have like myself taught CW for many years and they will know that there is NO plateau. Pupils will experience a level beyond which no improvement is perceived but this, as I myself took great pains to explain, is illusory. Improvement is there with each reading session but it is simply not recognised by the pupil. The fly on the wall will see clues such as clearer handwriting indicating an improved degree of confidence, a relaxation in even the way the pen is held which again points to an improved aptitude however immeasurable it may seem. Clearing this 'plateau'

usually results in a much steeper learning curve. Indeed I would venture to suggest that the 'plateau' proper is the limit of the students writing speed which is a physical constraint rather than a mental one. FISTS is full of members who have now overcome this 'barrier' by discarding the need for a pen and their ability to read 'in the head' far exceeds their writing prowess. After this, the real plateau is the one where the brain via the ear is unable to distinguish between the smallest element (a 'dit') and a space.

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1791-1872

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OOPS - MEMORY!

Now, there's a fine fettle of kish. Someone sent me a fiver for some IRCs but there were only 6 available so I hung on for a couple of days in case more turned up. No such luck but in the meantime, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO IT WAS!. Would the party con-

cerned psc let me know and I will refund the fiver. Please though, any requests for things of this nature, give me a bell or e-mail first.

30M ON THE BOIL

By the time most of you are aware of my slip and listen on 10.1258, conditions may well have changed. However, late evening has found ZS and other African countries coming through at very good strengths. I turned up there the other week to find the frequency occupied by some SSB stations and not a call sign to be heard. Switched to a narrow filter and called CQ and found myself in the company of DL, SM, OH, OY and a lone JA who had the same thoughts. The interlopers quit pdq.

40M RF

It finally happened. On 40m, I have had to reduce power to something in the order of 40w maximum because for some reason, RF seems to be entering the phone line. I have already successfully screwed up no less than three telephone handsets and the latest victim is my Amstrad Fax machine. Apart from the loud speaker listening facility I won't miss it. Faxes are few and far between and these have long been managed by the computer since the Amstrad developed a fault which produced large areas of dark cloud. Got a sneaking feeling that the BT line is something in the order of 66 feet in length and I don't think they would take kindly to the suggestion that they do something about it. Think a toroid choke would have solved the problem so if any of you are experiencing odd noises or the phone cuts out when you transmit on a particular band, you would be advised to investigate. Can't wait for the cable company to offer me a line. Hi.

From somewhere at 3717m near Mt Teide (Teneriffe), this intrepid trio (L/R DL1CC, SM5DAD, EA8EX) whose ages ran 55, 66 and 55 and whose common interest apart from Radio is Esperanto, were either trying to find a cure for vertigo or just put the wind up poor old Geo. That lump of rock in the background seemingly looks down on a sheer drop of some 1,000 feet. Uuuuugh.

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK

Yes... it's that time of the year again. Plug the XYL

into the Vodka dispenser, lock the shack door and give that old straight key a bit of TLC. Starting date Sunday 6 Sept at 0001z through to the following Saturday at 2359z. Remember to give the day (01 is Sunday, 02 Monday etc.) together with report, name, QTH and FISTS number i.e. 569/Geo/Darwen/001/03 (Tuesday). All bands except WARC (we don't want to appear to be running contests even though this is not one) and send your completed logs to Gerry, GM4BAE before the end of the month. Scoring as Century. Address: Mr. G. Maxwell, Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc., STRANRAER, DG9 0HY.

Remember also that we would appreciate your nomination for FIST of the year. By this I mean not the fastest but the most consistent, well spaced and easy to read. Again, this need not be a FISTS member.

PLEASE. Do not treat this as a contest. You have a full week to amble round the bands so do not feel under any pressure and just have a good old rag-chew session. No points for non-members but please do not let this stop you from working 'em. Bear in mind that you are flying the flag and although I am sure I have no need to remind you, your courtesy and consideration for others is of the utmost importance.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0HGG. Our Gordon has been suffering severely from Emphysema requiring regular intake of an oxygen concentrate for as much as 18 hours per day. So far behind is he in terms of activity that now he is again QRV, he asks for your patience and QRS. G4VLW. Roger simply had to put pen to paper and comment on the number of friends he has made since his membership. His QSOs with Serge, UA4AQO confirms the grim state of affairs reported in the press and on TV. Delighted to find such kind and friendly people on the bands which has let up to his Century. 2E0AMW. Geoff is one of those who managed to make the NEC Forum with the RSGB and the RA. He notes that Mr. Kirby affirmed his continued support for CW and the band plans but after such underhand activities, I think that perhaps a pinch of salt would be required to swallow anything he says. In the same vein, Ken, GI4CRQ points out that the RSGB president, GI8AYZ/MI0AYZ spent most of his career before retirement involved in voice and data communications. M0BUY. John has had his ticket now for

about 5 weeks and attests that it was definitely worth slogging through the exam. He enjoyed participating in the IOTA contest though "I am certainly not going to win with just over 12600 points from an indoor antenna" He has also qualified for the RSGB 100 year award and is hoping he does not have to wait quite so long as G4UCJ. Good to hear you are having fun mate. G0BXV. Hi Dave. All your Century QSOs count provided that the contact was a member at the time. By now you will realise that my fingers are a little sticky and the 30m QRG mentioned should be 10.1258. Interestingly, he also remembered the 'little imps' and was involved in wiring up a house in Belgravia which was the subject of the popular series Upstairs Downstairs.

NEW MEMBERS

4866	G3AHX George	4867	G0WCP Ernest
4868	G0WDT Edward	4869	GW0GVQ Paul
4870	G0BCT Richard	4871	M0ADKBrian
4872	PA3BHH Ton	4873	G4LJZ Steve
4874	G3DKN Tom	4875	GW7EXW Tom
4876	GW3VOL		Jeremy

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FINALE

My goodness, I have almost fallen off the bottom of the page again. It is September once more and we haven't had any real summer yet. I suppose that is one of the problems of living next to the badlands of Yorkshire from whence issues cold winds and indifferent cricket though, I must confess, some pretty decent code.

Arriving a little too late this month is the press release for Vibroplex - will try to squeeze it in next month. Pro photography and photos on disc which makes things easy.

73/88 people. Hope to find more than a few of you on the SKW next month. Stay sober de Geo.

NEW ZEALAND KEYNOTE

FISTS DOWN UNDER

ZL2CD-Bill-9004 inquires why the membership numbers jump all over the place. Blocks of numbers are allocated to the UK, US and NZ centres. UK is currently using the 48nn block and US the 54nn block. Occasionally the allocations for these two groups have leapfrogged over each other. Here in Australia and NZ we have been given the 90nn block, which should see us right for the next decade or so! Earlier numbers in our monthly additions lists are for previous members re-joining. I hope this clears things up for you Bill.

Correspondence

ZL2ABZ-John-9005 writes:

Many thanks for the newsy newsletter. I really believe that Morse will survive for a very long time. It has a communications "charm" which is unique, especially in making it possible for people to QSO who do not speak the same language.

Do you think that members will be interested in creating a special FISTS Morse signal? E.g. instead of "CQ FISTS", merely send CQ ••—••". Dit dit dah dit dit is not used, I think as a standard signal, but it, or some similar brief character could become the international FISTS Club calling signal.

I have sent this letter to the UK and USA to see whether they would like to promote this idea. What do we think down under. Comments to me please. Personally I think that "CQ FISTS" is something of a fistful, and would welcome a briefer alternative. Ed.

Responses from overseas so far are:

Speaking for myself only (not representing other FISTS opinions): FISTS is already occasionally accused of being CW elitists/snobs and if we start creating our own Morse signals, I do not think it will be very well received.

What's wrong with just using CQ FISTS? or CQ

CQ CQ de ZL2ABZ/FISTS?

I think it would create more confusion than it would help solve.

Besides, worse case scenario, it might be considered a "code/cipher" transmission as defined by the FCC and be illegal.

Nancy WZ8C

I still like CQ FISTS. It is unique in itself and lets the world know what the organization is. They hear that, they inquire about it. It works, it works well, "if it isn't broke, don't fix it"! Sorry, I cannot go along with the suggestion.

73, Ed N7CFA

ZL2BIL-Bill-9003 writes:

Hi Ralph, A few notes for the Down Under newsletter.

FISTS worked:(20M) Marie W6JEP; Joe KC7TNT.

OTHERS:(20M) KF6RIP; WA8OR; WA2TPU; KM5AJ; AB7TS; DK2CM; HA8PW; EK4JJ; ER4OT; YO8CF; PA0IJM; SP9EMV; UA3PIP; UR5QGC; VK6WT; 3D2QB (15M).

All worked with Yaesu 101B to 40-20M dipoles only about three metres up at the centre! Can be done with a low level antenna. Have problems with some heavy QRM here through the day, which made UA3PIP's 10-watts hard to hear! Still, we managed OK in the end.

ZL1AWL-Jim-9006 has been heard busily working on 14.058 MHz. He says he enjoys the club and working members. He has several SQL cards going out already.

VK7LF-Tom-3712, in renewing his subscription reports working on 30 metres into the UK with 5 Watts and that he has been busily home brewing. (Presumably that's the radio sort!)

A pleasant surprise in the mail box was a note from VK5AIL Don Callow accompanying a leaflet on the

CW Operators' QRP Club and a copy of their quarterly magazine "Lo-Key". As editor Don had reproduced my letter which was published in the August "Amateur Radio". You can learn more about their club by visiting their home page - <http://www.users.on.net/zeitz/qrp/club.htm>. Another address contains files for downloading - <http://www.users.on.net/zeitz/qrp/lists.htm>. The Secretary Treasurer is VK5AKZ Kevin Zietz, 41 Tobruk Avenue, St Marys, South Australia 5044. Tel +61-8-8277-3219 (after 09:00Z). If you would like to view the material, let me know.

New Members

We welcome VK2EBP-John Oksiuta-9007 as our first new VK member. In introducing himself, John writes:

"Many thanks for inviting me to join the FISTS Club. In view of dwindling numbers of CW operators, active discouragement of those interested in many clubs and at the same time a resurgence of interest, no initiative could be more timely. The interest in the mode IS present out there but frequently those involved are frequently considered an under class within the amateur fraternity and subsequently reluctant to mention the taboo subject on local repeaters. I guess your experience in NZ is quite similar...

As the club aims at engendering friendship amongst like-minded individuals I feel it would be quite appropriate to present some personal history for your and other members' information... Now at thirty-five, I developed interest in things electrical in early childhood after surviving a healthy zap from a metal object inserted into a power point... At thirteen I joined the Maritime Radio Club in Gdansk, Poland following an advertisement about classes leading to amateur licences. Classes started with code lessons and were dismissed after four lessons since all of the prospective amateurs except for the two youngest ones lost their interest. I continued with my self-education with the help of a homebrew 80 m receiver and passed the full exams a year later and subsequently was granted an age-restricted licence with access to 80 and 40 m (20 Watt CW only.) A few years later in 1981 all licences were suspended following political unrest and the introduction of martial law. Subsequent years were busy with electronics engineering studies, getting married to a beautiful YL, starting a

new life, migration to Australia in 1990 and settling into a new country. Eventually I joined the WIA in April last year, sat for the CW exam and applied for a reciprocal licence. My on-air activities here started with 5 W CW homebrew on 80 m, then 20 W 40 m until I acquired a TS-820-S two months ago.

So much for my brief radio history. I am employed in a public hospital where I am involved in clinical engineering in the cardiology department (mainly with cardiac pacemakers.) At home I enjoy family life with our first baby boy."

Thanks for your interesting letter John. I hope it will prompt other members to tell us about their experiences in radio.

Another new member is ZL1AN-Gary Bold-9008. Gary is well known to ZL members as the editor of the long running Morseman column in "Break In." Gary has also, over the years developed useful training software which he distributes at no cost. Gary practises what he preaches and works the bottom end of the bands in breaks in his busy work schedule.

The third member to register this month is ZL1BIQ-Keith Puffett-9009 a resident of Manurewa, Auckland, who was introduced to the club by ZL1BSG-Jim-9005.

QSL Bureau

A reminder that I am acting as the FISTS QSL bureau for VK/ZL. If you have any cards for FISTS members send them to me. I will be mailing out on the 1st day of each month to the US and UK bureaus. Your cards and replies should be speeded up by this over the conventional bureau services. There is no charge for this service and you do not need to send envelopes or stamps. Cards from VK/ZL members and incoming from US & UK will be mailed with the newsletter.

Newsletter News

This down under supplement will be published in tandem with the newsletter arriving from the UK, normally ten issues a year, i.e. every month excepting June and December. However should there be anything special to report during a hiatus, we will put

out a special, separate issue.

Sorry about the black space in last month's news. Unfortunately G3ZQS-Geo-0001 had the same trouble as me when he tried to recover it for us.

QSL Cards

I received sample cards from the UK and have revised them for VK/ZL use and to suit my own computer operations. The result is the sample card enclosed with this newsletter. The software used is Microsoft Publisher. The cards are printed four to an A-4 sheet and then cut to the required size. The simplest way would be for those owning or having access to computer facilities (including MS Publisher) to produce their own, printing them on the heaviest card your printer can accommodate. (Mine are on 130 gsm card.) For this purpose I could supply the files to do the job, customised for your own call and details. The files can be sent per e-mail or on a diskette provided by you. For those who do not have the ability to produce their own, I can produce a master for you to take to your local print shop.

That's it for this month. Don't forget to send in your news and views to share with other members



73 de RALPH ZL2AOH
28 September 1998

Have you visited our
FISTS Web page lately?
Webmaster Bill KK4KF
has made some changes.
It's now easier to navigate
and find what you need.
Check it out!

LATE BREAKING USA NEWS Web Counter Statistics

Here are the Web Counter Statistics for the last few months. We're getting 600 hits consistently each week! Thanks to Bill KK4KF for maintaining the page and Lee N9NVV for donating the web space!

Aug 1: 83
Aug 2-8: 655
Aug 9-15: 741
Aug 16-22: 643
Aug 23-29: 528
Aug 30-31: 182
Sep 1-5: 450
Sep 6-12: 638
Sep 13-19: 662
Sep 20-26: 627

FISTS Slow Speed Group Affiliates With NTS By Charlie KA8QQF

The FSSG is now affiliated with the National Traffic System. While preparing the submission to have the net listed in the 1999-2000 ARRL Net Directory, much thought was given whether or not to list an NTS affiliation. After considering the public service aspects of our hobby, and the fact that FISTS already runs a formal traffic net, and after consulting with several FISTS members over whether this would be appropriate for the type of net that FSSG is, it was decided to expand our purpose somewhat and affiliate with the NTS. We have a fairly broad coverage area (at least in the seasons when the static goes south for the winter), and on rare occasion (twice?) we've had someone check into the net and ask if there's a way to pass a formal message. Since the idea of CW training includes the passing of traffic, this is a natural extension of the net's purpose.

The FSSG *will not* become a full-bore traffic net. It was never envisioned as one. Everyone is strongly encouraged to utilize the regular traffic outlets in your area - 2m local net, statewide HF, whatever - to handle NTS messages. (Don't know what your local traffic outlets are? May I suggest something like -- oh, I dunno - maybe the ARRL Net Directory?) The regular Tuesday session of FISTS' traffic net is also highly recommended. The FSSG will simply be another convenient outlet to help serve the public, with relays of messages to packet radio and my local 2m traffic net.

I give fair warning to those who now plan to show up for FSSG with eighteen gazillion pieces of traffic - you are expected to stick around for the remainder of the net and be social with your fellow FISTS members. The most important message you can pass on FSSG is, "Hi, how ya doing? Nice to meet you...". charlie ka8qqf

How to Comment To The FCC

One important item to remember: *You must include the docket number, or rulemaking number, on your comments for the proceeding on which you are commenting.* If you do not know the docket number, contact the Office of Public Affairs, Public Service Division at (202) 418-0260 or the Bureau/Office responsible for the item. *The docket number is critical to make sure your comments are considered, no matter how you submit them.*

There are two basic types of comments: formal and informal comments. The main difference between formal and informal comments is the number of copies that are filed with the Commission. *In filing formal comments, an original plus four copies of your comments must be delivered, by mail or by hand, to the Office of the Secretary, 1919 M Street, Room 222, NW, Washington, DC 20554.* The Secretary's Office hours of operation are Monday- Friday (except government holidays) 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Comments must be filed in the Secretary's Office by 5:30 pm on the deadline date.

If you would like your formal comments to be circulated to the Commissioners, an original and nine (9) copies must be submitted.

The Commission also accepts comments via e-mail or fax. *If you file your comments via e-mail or fax or in the form of a letter without the extra four copies, they will be considered "informal" comments. That means that your comments will not be as widely distributed within the FCC for review.*

You should also be aware that in some instances we have requested copies of comments to be filed on disk in addition to the paper copies. This has been of tremendous value because it enables us to make comments available on the Internet. This has provided greater access to information, especially for individuals not located in the Washington, DC area. It has made it easier for others to review the record, provide reply comments and to better understand and evaluate the issues. So keep in mind, when we ask for comments to also be submitted on a diskette, it helps us help you. NOTE: THE FCC HAS WAIVED THIS REQUIREMENT FOR THE RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL.

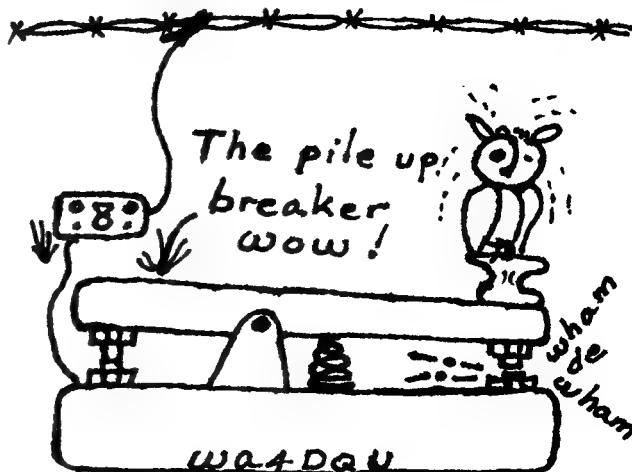
To encourage your participation in our rule making process, we are, in specific proceedings, encouraging comments to be submitted via electronic mail. Individuals interested in filing e-mail comments should contact the person listed in the Notice or the Secretary's office on (202) 418-0300 to see if an electronic mail box has been set up for the proceeding on which you wish to comment.

Some helpful guidelines for filing informal vs. formal comments: If you file e-mail comments and would like them to be treated as "formal" please print out your comments and send the original plus four copies to the Secretary's office by the stated deadline. If you cannot get your comments in on time this way, or if it is a choice of commenting informally or not commenting at all, please send your comments however you can and follow up with a phone call to ensure receipt.

For example, contact the Public Service Division if you have e-mailed your comments to our main mailbox. If you have sent the comments directly to the Bureau handling that proceeding, call them to follow up. If you have faxed your comments or sent in a letter, call and make sure the information was received. Following up a fax by mailing an original plus four copies of your comments by the deadline ensures that they will be considered "formal".

If you require assistance or have any questions about how to file comments, please contact the FCC Office of Public Affairs, Public Service Division or the Office of the Secretary. More information on how to file comments can be found in 47 Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.399-1.430 regarding FCC Rule making proceedings.

---FCC---



SAMPLE FORMAT FOR LETTER TO FCC

Comment Cover by NY2V

(This a sample copy showing the information needed on your Comments or Reply Comments to the FCC
It can be on your letterhead or plain paper. The directions are in bold face type)

In the Matter of

[Docket caption] Example:

A brief description or summary)

of the issue you want to address.)

It can be a few words. The most)

VERY IMPORTANT

Place docket number HERE *

important information is the Docket Number at right)

COMMENTS OF

Place you name, organization/company name, if appropriate, and address here. You can also include the date you are submitting it in the comments.

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USA

Start your comments here:

I (or your organization, association or company name) file these comments on May 31, 1996, in the FCC's (title of inquiry or proposal and docket number with code). It is often best to start with a summary of your comments, then follow with the details, explanations and other material as need. This can be more than one page. Be sure your name and docket number you are referring to appear on each page.

At the end of you comments be sure to sign the document.

Submitted by:

(Signature)

Typed Name

Address

Date

*FCC Docket Numbers begin with an important code: MM, CC, WT, CS, IB, PP, ET, GC or MD. Be CERTAIN to include the correct code in the docket number above.

The correct code for NPRM 98183 is WT, i.e. WT Docket Nr. 98-143 to be specific.

Instructions for getting support from your representatives in Congress

By Dan KS6Z

The House Commerce Committee subcommittee: The subcommittee name is The House subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

1. Most effective is a written letter 2. Next most effective is a fax 3. Next is a phone call 4. Least effective is an email. (They get them all day long)

Ask for a written response to your concern NO MATTER WHICH METHOD YOU USE TO CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS. You will have to put your address on any email you send or they will not respond. Send something, or call, to all Members of Congress on this subcommittee. If you are lucky you will live in the district of one of the members on the list that follows. In this case give them no quarter, we only get one vote on this issue.

Make sure that you clearly state that your continued support in November is dependent on his/her position on this issue and follow through in November if he/she doesn't support your position, regardless of his/her position on other issues. This confirms the level of concern you have on this issue and will plant the thought as firmly as possible. If your congressman/senator won by a big margin in the last election they won't care much about this but if they won by only 2000/3000 votes in the last election they WILL listen carefully believe me. Try to put your own party preference and ideological interests aside in the interest of developing a united front on this issue.

Committee Members are:

Name	District	Phone	FAX	Email
Billy Tauzin	R-LA-03		202/225-4037	202/225-0563 No EMAIL
Local phone in Louisiana:		504/876-3033		
Michael Oxley	R-OH-04		202/225-2676	NO FAX MikeOxley@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Ohio:		419/423/3210		
Joe Barton	R-TX-06		202/225-2002	202/225-3052 Rep.Barton@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Texas:		817/543-1000		
Dennis Hastert	R-IL-14		202/225-2976	202/225-0697 dhastert@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Illinois:		630/406/1114		
Fred Upton	R-IL-06		202/225-3761	202/225-4986 talk2fsu@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Michigan:		616/982-1986		
Cliff Stearns	R-FL-06		202/225-5744	202/225-3973 CStearns@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Florida:		904/351-8777		
Paul Gilmor	R-OH-05		202/225-6405	202/225-1985 NO Email
Local phone number in Ohio:		419/734-1999		
Scott Klug	R-WI-02		202/225-2906	202/225-6942 Badger02@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Wisconsin:		608/257-9200		
Christopher Cox	R-CA-47		202/225-2906	202/225-6942 christopher.cox@Mail.House.gov
Local phone in California:		714/756-2244		
Nathan Deal	R-GA-09		202/225-5211	202/225-8272 NO Email
Local phone number in Georgia:		770/535-2592		
Steve Largent	R-OK-01		202/225-2211	202/225-9187 NO Email
Local phone number in Oklahoma:		918/749-0014		
Rick White	R-WA-01		202/225-6311	202/225-3524 repwhite@Mail.House.gov
Local phone in Washington:		425/640-0233		
James E. Rogan	R-CA-27		202/225-4176	202/225-5828 NO Email
Local phone in California:		818/577-3969		
John Shimkus	R-IL-20		202/225-5271	202/225-5880 Shimkus@Mail.House.gov
Local phone number in Illinois:		217/492-5090		
Tom Bliley	R-VA-07		202/225-2815	202/225-0011 NO Email
Local phone number in Virginia:		804/771-2809		

FISTS Worked All States

check one: Basic ☐

1-way QRP ☐

2-way QRP ☐

By signing here I swear that the contacts claimed below are legal, two way CW QSO's

Your FISTS # _____ Your callsign _____ Your address _____

STATE	CALL	NAME	FISTS #	Date	Band (CW)	QRP?
Alabama						
Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
Iowa						
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland (D.C.)						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						

FISTS CODE BUDDY APPLICATION

Mail to FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator:
John Cmiel, W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL 60030
Email: w9em@aol.com

Your Name _____ Callsign _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Your Daytime Phone Number _____ Evening _____ Fax _____

Your Email address _____

Your License Class _____ Your FISTS Number _____

Are you comfortable at (approximately):

_____ Under 5 WPM _____ 5 -10 WPM _____ 10-15 WPM

_____ 15-20 WPM _____ 20 - 25 WPM _____ 25-30 WPM

_____ 30-35 WPM _____ Above 35 WPM

Are you (check all that apply):

_____ Looking for a Code Buddy to help you improve?

_____ Looking to work with a Code Buddy to help them improve?

_____ Looking for a Code Buddy around the same level, for on the air practice?

Bands You Have Available: _____

Days & Times you are available to get on the air: _____

Special Interests (this helps match you with someone with common interests):

COMMENTS: _____

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN OUR FISTS CODE BUDDY PROGRAM

FISTS CW Club Century Award Application Check One: Basic ☐ One-Way QRP ☐ Two-Way QRP ☐

Your name _____ Your callsign _____ Your FISTS number _____ Date _____

Your address

By signing here, I swear these contacts are legal two way Morse Code contacts

[illegible]

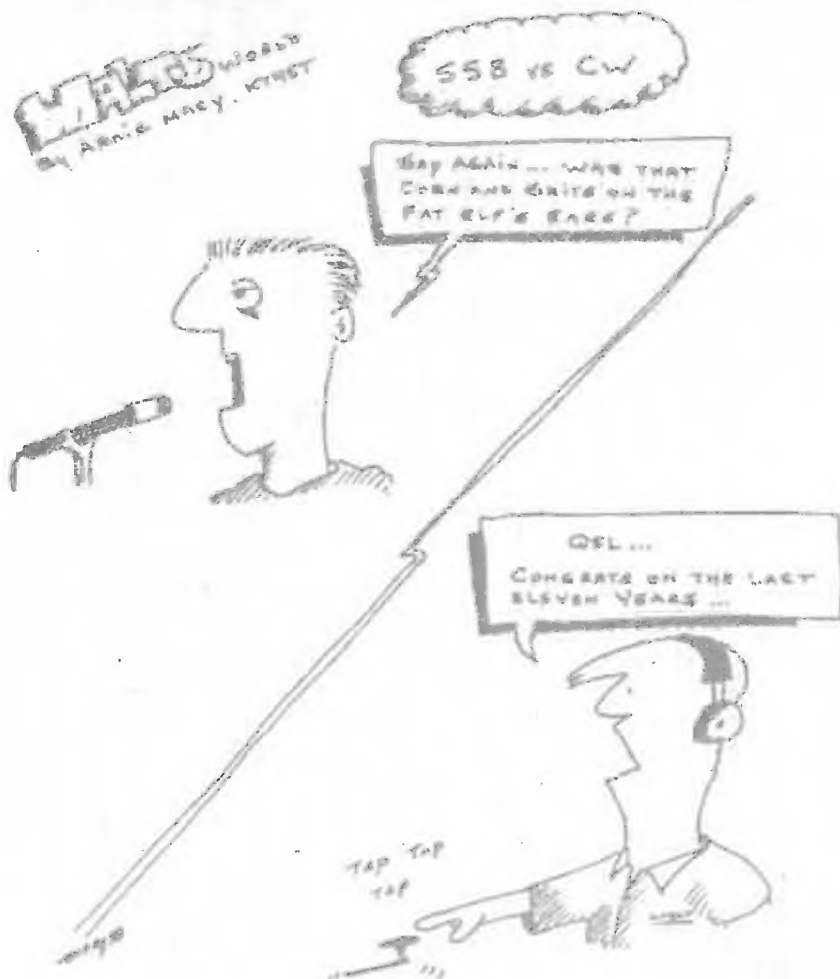
DXCC countries = 2 points, FISTS in your same country = 1 point, FISTS affiliated clubs = 3 points POINT TOTAL THIS PAGE

This is page number of submitted to total 100 points (use additional paper if necessary)

FISTS CW CLUB, P.O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE is on your mailing label

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FISTS CW CLUB FOR
ELEVEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE ...**